

Consultations continuing

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tala Al Hassan said Wednesday Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process were consulting each other to set a date for holding a coordination meeting in Beirut to adopt a unified Arab decision on the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations. Mr. Hassan told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Beirut meeting was important for coordinating Arab stands on the peace process. "Jordan was always and is still keen to activate the mechanism of Arab coordination and will work on everything that protects common Arab interests and on strengthening the stands of the Arab parties to the peace process at the negotiating table," he said. At the coordination meeting the Arab parties to the talks will make a general assessment of the process and will particularly focus on the outcome of the 10th round of talks, he said, adding that participants in the meeting will also discuss the outcome of contacts which took place at both the Arab and international levels, especially with co-sponsors of the peace process to arrive at a proper Arab decision.

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Yemeni vice-president arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh arrived here Wednesday evening and was received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. In an arrival statement to Petra, Mr. Beidh described Yemeni-Jordanian relations as a model for Arab relations and stressed that both sides attached high importance to such ties. "We have much in common since we are trying, with the help of His Majesty (King Hussein), to heal the wounds caused by the Gulf crisis and narrow the Arab rift," he said. Petra did not provide any details of Mr. Beidh's visit except that the King was to receive him later. Also receiving Mr. Beidh upon arrival were Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, the Crown Prince's advisor Mohammad Saqqaf, Royal Protocol Chief Mohammad Al Adwan, the Crown Prince's Office Director Michael Hamarneh and senior officials.

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Opposition to electoral change fizzling out rather quickly

Reaction of political parties and figures 'weak and confused'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political parties and figures Wednesday seemed willing to live with the electoral change the government unilaterally introduced Tuesday with many observers characterizing the opposition's reaction to the introduction of the new law of one-person, one-vote as "weak and confused."

Seven leftist parties Wednesday said they will legally contest the constitutionality of the draft temporary election law which His Majesty King Hussein approved Tuesday. But with some signs that the Islamic Action Front (IAF) would not support their possible action, observers say the opposition will be fighting a "losing battle."

The observers say the opposition is aware of that and would not therefore favourably consider boycotting the elections as an expression of its rejection of the changes. The most opposition parties would do is seek legal action against the mechanism through which the changes were introduced and announce their objection to it as undemocratic, they said.

That, however, would be directed towards making only a

public statement. "The opposition knows it cannot reverse the government's decision," said one political activist.

The government amended the Election Law to introduce the one-person, one-vote formula against the will of political parties and without the national dialogue it had said would precede any action on the law. Analysts believe the change would work against large and well-organized political groups.

Before the Election Law was amended, the majority of political parties had threatened to fight the change, with the IAF warning that it would boycott the elections. One day after the change was announced, however, these threats seem to have fizzled out with many party heads and political figures completely ruling out boycott of the elections as a viable option.

The IAF Tuesday hosted a meeting of political parties opposed to the change but the gathering failed to agree on a line of action. The only conclusion one could "sense from (that) meeting is that the IAF would not boycott the elections," said one former deputy who attended the meeting (see related story).

The Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party, the Jordan Peo-

ple's Democratic Party, the Progressive Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Democratic Socialist Party, the Arab Democratic Party and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party held a similar meeting Wednesday and issued a statement rejecting the change as undemocratic and in "violation of the spirit of the Constitution."

These parties are planning to hold another meeting next week to further study their positions, sources said.

There are three major political forces in Jordan who might oppose or support the new law: The Islamists, the centrists and the leftists. The centrists, who mainly represent tribal and strongly pro-regime figures, usually support whatever policies the King adopts. So if the Islamists choose not to challenge the new temporary election law, one analyst said, opposition would come from the leftists only.

And on its own, even leftist former deputies and politicians agree, the left would not be able to form an influential opposition front.

"The Islamic Action Front is the only party capable of taking a position that could put pressure on the government," one leftist former deputy told the Jordan

Times Wednesday. Without the IAF, the opposition would be ineffective and fragmented, he said.

"We announced our rejection of the new election law in order to make a stand, but we will not boycott the elections," Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party President Ahmad Al Najdawi told the Jordan Times Wednesday. A spokesman for the Jordan's People Democratic Party also said the party would not boycott the elections and the opposition would not be able to reverse the government's decision to change the Election Law.

"Since the law has been issued, I believe the elections will be held according to it," said Azmi Al Khwajeh of the leftist Jordanian People Democratic Popular Unity Party. Mr. Khwajeh said the party was still "studying its position on the changes" but added that boycotting the elections has not been considered as an option. "Some parties are saying they would study their position on the change as if they were surprised by them," said former leftist deputy Deeb Marji. "This is a weak stand," he said.

Observers attributed the "restrained" reaction to the fact that

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Islamists thrown off balance by King's speech

'Moderates' see positive tone; 'hawks' get another message

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF), which had led an uproarious campaign against introducing a one-person, one-vote election formula into Jordan's electoral process during the past few weeks, appears to have been thrown off balance by His Majesty King Hussein's address in which he announced the change, forcing an internal struggle between the "moderates" and the "hawks" inside the group.

According to IAF sources, the group has found itself divided over the interpretation of at least one passage in Tuesday's speech in which the King made a direct reference to the front and called on it to live up to its name.

In that passage, the King said: "I am concerned with safeguarding the unity of the country; I am also most concerned about our sons, some of whom have chosen to belong to a front, which they have named, the Islamic Front. What I wish for them and from them is that they truly practise their historic responsibilities in striving to live up to the name they have chosen."

While this and other state-

ments in the speech led the "moderates" among the IAF leaders to believe that the King was directly appealing to the IAF not to boycott the Nov. 8 elections and assuring the group of his recognition of its political weight, but the "hawks" interpreted it as a direct threat aimed at making them fall in line. The more extremist Islamists maintain that this passage cannot be seen positively when it says, "which they have named," rather than directly naming the group.

"There are two interpretations of this line among the leaders," an IAF source told the Jordan Times Wednesday. "The differing opinions are obviously born out of differing psychological and political predispositions" among the Islamist leaders.

But it was not only this particular line that instantly split the IAF camp into "moderates" and "hawks" over what the speech meant. There were other, equally important, points of difference over various statements made in the speech.

For instance, the King made a reference to his 40 years on the throne in the context of saying that there were good and bad times during this

period but that Jordan has been able to ride out all storms during this period.

The "moderates" in the IAF believed that this reference by the King underlined the years of harmony with the Islamists and placed responsibility on them to safeguard Jordan which the King said, in his speech, was under outside pressures. To prove their point, they refer to the quote in which the King said that "failure, God forbid, does not only mean the collapse of all our hopes and aspirations, but will also subject this nation to disintegration."

The moderates say that the King was careful to point out that he was not taking sides with one party or another when he said: "I would like to emphasise that my government and I, as a father and a brother to each citizen, that we do not support one side over another."

The "hawks," on the other hand, maintain that the government adopts a line of political thought that is fundamentally different from theirs and that only the government line can be served by the change in the electoral law.

The Muslim Brotherhood movement, which is the backbone of the IAF and which

won a bloc of 23 seats in the 11th Parliament, stands to lose a good margin of their popular base with the adoption of one-person, one-vote. Analysts believe that independent and centrist candidates stand to gain from the change and that the IAF would probably win around 17 seats in the House.

The "moderates" in the IAF respond by admitting that questions can be raised about the government's intentions but add that a confrontation with the government is different from one with the King, who, in his Tuesday speech, pledged to personally "ensure the integrity and honesty of the elections that will be a model for the trust that unites us."

On mentioning the IAF by name in his address, the "moderates" also thought that the King, "by naming us, acknowledged that we are Jordan's largest and most organised party. But at the same time he also expects us to behave in a mature way and participate in building the nation."

An IAF "moderate" also cited another paragraph in the King's speech which was taken to be positive. That paragraph said the following: "I call upon my brothers to appreciate the

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Minority votes may scramble strategies with introduction of change into elections

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The one-person, one-vote system introduced into the electoral system has brought in countless new elements into play ahead of the Nov. 8 elections, scrambling the strategies of many.

One such element, politicians and analysts argue, is what could turn out to be an unprecedented lobbying for Christian votes by their co-religionists as well as "moderate" or "liberal" Muslims and vice-versa.

The scenario, along this line of thinking, unfolds like this: While the eight seats reserved for Christians in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament will be filled by Christian candidates who get the highest number of votes among the Christian candidates in their respective constituencies. The number of votes that Muslim candidates garner will, in theory at least, have no relation whatsoever to the Christian candidates.

As such, the Christian community is assured of the eight seats in the House, even if Christian candidates get the lowest number of votes when

compared with Muslim candidates.

This opens the door for Muslim candidates to campaign for Christian votes with an argument that common interests will be further served if they vote for "moderate" or "liberal" Muslims and seek to dilute the strength of the Islamists.

This adds to what is seen as the Christian community's quest to establish their clout on the scene in proportion to the seats allocated to Christians in the House.

The eight Christian seats represent 10 per cent of the House, but it is a known fact that their strength in the overall population or the eligible electorate is below five per cent (no definite figures are available on the number of registered Christian voters).

The three seats reserved for the Circassians and Chechens could not be classified along the same lines as the Christians because the Circassians and Chechens are Muslim and the argument of cutting through Islamic strength is unlikely to work with them since some of them are already seen as supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood. Furthermore, it is said already, that the Islamist

candidates among them are the most likely to win in the next elections.

"It will be ridiculous for Christian candidates to be elected with 300 or 400 votes from a constituency when their Muslim counterparts secure several times that number," said a seasoned analyst and former minister. "This will reflect badly on the morale of the Christian community."

Results of the 1989 elections were not indicative of voting strengths since alliances played a major role.

Many Christian candidates sought support from the Brotherhood during those elections. Under such agreements, the Brotherhood leadership instructed its supporters to vote for allied Christian candidates in return for the concerned candidates asking their supporters to do the same for Brotherhood candidates.

The alliances worked well since no one was losing anything because of the bloating system under which voters could vote for more than one candidate — up to six or eight candidates in some constituencies — including the seat reserved for the minorities.

Fakhri Kwar, who won the Christian seat from Amman's affluent Third District in the 1989 elections apparently with a lot of help from the Brotherhood, believes that a certain number of Christian voters will only vote for Christian candidates regardless of all other considerations because of family and community relations, but that will not be enough to score resounding victories.

"The marked difference in the Third District is that election platforms and objectives of candidates are the main factors that influence the voters," said Mr. Kwar.

Furthermore, "substantiated approaches from Muslim candidates to Christian voters place an additional burden on Christian candidates to convince uncommitted Christian voters of their election programmes," he said.

However, Mr. Kwar said, "the field is open for Christian candidates to try to convince Muslim voters to vote for them."

"I believe that what counts more than anything else in the polls is the soundness and

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Group denies it plotted against King

AMMAN (AP) — An outlawed Islamic fundamentalist group on Wednesday denied government accusations that it had plotted to kill King Hussein.

A statement delivered by hand to the Associated Press also denied that six military cadets arrested in April belonged to Hezb Al Tahrir (Islamic Liberation Party).

The group is a highly puritan faction that recognises none of the existing Arab governments and calls for their overthrow and the establishment of Islamic caliphate-style systems.

The statement was typed in Arabic on paper bearing the emblem of Hezb Al Tahrir, the messenger is a known member of the party. But he asked that his name not be disclosed for security considerations.

The statement accused the powerful secret service of "fabricating" the plot, but did not explain why.

However, the man who delivered it said the aim was to "distort our image because we have not sought to be legalised and also to discredit Islamic movements in Jordan and the Arab World."

The Government announced Monday that 10 people have been accused in connection with a plot to kill King Hussein during the graduation ceremony at Muta University in southern Jordan on June 26.

It said in addition to the six military cadets who allegedly were assigned to carry out the plot, four members of Hezb Al Tahrir have been implicated in the case, according to the government.

"Hezb Al Tahrir categorically denies any connection in the alleged plot attempt on the life of King Hussein," the statement said. "The party does not believe in violence and assassinations."

Furthermore, it said, "there is no link whatsoever between the cadets implicated in the murder plot and the leadership or members of the party."

Hezb Al Tahrir was formed in the West Bank, now occupied by Israel, in 1951 by Sheikh Taqiyeddine Nabhan. A Jordan branch was initiated in 1952.

It was outlawed in 1957 when King Hussein banned political parties after a leftist coup attempt.

Although parties have been allowed to form and many have been licensed since last September, the group has not been legalised because it does not recognise the Jordanian Constitution.



King attends Muta graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein

Wednesday attended the graduation of a batch of paratroopers from the military wing of Muta University and watched them exercising a free fall in which they were joined by His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein.

King Hussein was received at the site of the graduation ceremony by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Miral.

The commander of the Special Forces delivered an address at the ceremony welcoming King Hussein and briefing His Majesty on the training the graduates received during their course.

Following the address, King Hussein watched the graduates and teams from the Special Forces in free fall jumps.

The King presented the graduates with wings and met

with their families to congratulate them.

The ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Princess Haya, Prince Hashem, Prince Hamzah and Prince Talal Ben Mohammad who is the King's military secretary, the deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for manpower, vice president of Muta for military affairs and senior army officers.

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Israelis start new settlement on Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Jewish settlers opposed to Syrian-Israeli talks on the future of the Golan Heights have set up seven mobile homes on the strategic plateau and plan to declare a new settlement soon, witnesses said Wednesday.

They said the prefabricated houses were assembled near Moshav Shaal in the north of the Golan. Israelis employed in nearby farms were already living in the houses, they said.

Housing ministry officials said they had no information on any new settlements being set up in the Golan.

Cutaways have been installed in the centre of the strategic plateau. Land surrounding the settlement named "generation Golan" was being prepared with a tractor, reports said.

The head of the Golan settlers' council, Elia Malka, denied a new settlement was being started.

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Britain, France reserve judgement on Libyan offer

PARIS (Agencies) — Britain and France reacted with caution and scepticism on Wednesday to Libyan offers of cooperation with investigators over the bombings of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie and a UTA airliner over Niger.

President Hosni Mubarak meanwhile met for a second day Wednesday with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for talks believed centering on Western demands that Libya surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103.

Mr. Mubarak, one of the United States' closest Arab allies, has been trying to convince Libya to cooperate in the investigation

of the 1988 Pan Am explosion over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

Last Friday, the United States, Britain and France threatened to strengthen U.N. sanctions against Libya unless it turns over the suspects by Oct. 1. The French also are seeking four Libyans in the bombing of a jetliner over Niger in 1989 that killed 171 people.

Libya's Foreign Ministry rejected the ultimatum earlier this week.

The Libyan news agency

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To Al Ra'i and Jordan Times readers

Home-delivery service in Khaldi and Tla'a Al Ali. Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times will soon start operating a new home-delivery service in the areas of Tla'a Al Ali, Khaldi, Umm Al Summaq, Wasfi Al Tel Street, Mecca Street and the Seventh Circle.

Those who want to subscribe to the service, please call the Distribution Department; Tel.: 667171. (Ext. 2471).

Jiang says no banned cargo aboard ship

PEKING (Agencies) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin assured visiting U.S. congressmen Wednesday that a Chinese ship at the centre of a row with Washington is not carrying banned ingredients for chemical weapons.

"(Jiang) said that there are no poisonous weapon chemicals on the ship," Congressman Sam Gibbons, head of the U.S. delegation, told a news conference.

U.S. officials said Mr. Jiang's statement referred explicitly to the materials for chemical weapons that the United States has charged form part of the cargo of the ship Yinhe.

The Yinhe, now being shadowed by U.S. Navy ships, has been stranded in the Gulf for two weeks after a dispute erupted over its cargo, part of which is headed for Iran.

Washington has said it believes the Iran-bound containers hold chemicals such as thiodiglycol and thionyl chloride that can be used to build chemical weapons. It insists on the right to check the cargo.

China has rejected the charge, and offered "third party" inspection of the cargo after it is unloaded at a regional port. Peking said last Friday that Washington had turned down this offer.

The row has focused attention on China's arms sales policies, which some U.S. politicians say are contributing to the proliferation of weapons in unstable regions.

China says it abides by relevant international agreements in its arms sales and some Chinese officials have accused the United States of trying to deflect attention from its own arms exports.

Gulf shipping sources said the Yinhe's captain asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for permission to enter one of its ports on Tuesday after anchoring just outside the country's territorial waters on Monday.

UAE authorities are also demanding to check the ship's cargo, the shipping sources said.

The shipping sources said the Yinhe, which was banned from docking at the UAE's Rasheed port last week, is carrying 2,500

containers, including some 560 containers due to be off-loaded in Dubai.

Some of the 560 containers were to be transhipped to Iran from Dubai, which handles about 80 per cent of Iran's cargoes.

"In order to solve the problem and clarify the facts at an early date, the Chinese government has suggested that the relevant goods on the Yinhe cargo ship can be examined in the port of Dubai of the UAE," a foreign ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday.

The spokeswoman, quoted by AP, declined to say who might be allowed to supervise the examination.

U.S. officials said Mr. Jiang's statement to the congressmen Wednesday referred explicitly to "preursors" for chemical weapons that the United States has charged form part of the Yinhe's cargo.

Chinese diplomats met UAE officials Wednesday to discuss the fate of the ship.

"We are trying to have the cargo unloaded. We don't know where it will be. We are ready to have the containers inspected," a senior Chinese diplomat told Reuters.

The diplomat, who did not want to be named, was speaking after the meeting at the UAE Foreign Ministry in Abu Dhabi. He did not elaborate or say what the outcome of the meeting was.

UAE officials were not immediately available to comment. Shipping executives and diplomats said that the UAE government had not yet taken a decision on the fate of the ship but that it was unlikely to let it into a UAE port.

"The general attitude is that it will not be allowed in. Contacts are still going on," one shipping executive said.

The diplomats said their understanding was that the ship would eventually have to sail back to China with its cargo.

The diplomats said the UAE did not want to be caught in the middle of the row between Washington and Peking.



CROWD 'CONTROL': Egyptian security forces militiamen on Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali in disperse a crowd of onlookers at the American University of Cairo Wednesday after an attack by

Fighting spurs Sudanese exodus

By George Mulala
The Associated Press

KAYA, Sudan — Remo Monyaa is the last holdout in this dusty southern town, deserted by other residents as Sudan's 10-year-old civil war grows near.

"I am not leaving — maybe when I am dead," said the 60-year-old farmer, who stayed behind in rebel-held Kaya while the rest of the villagers fled recent government bombing. "My property, my goats, my crops are here."

Homes on Kaya's main street bore signs that Mr. Monyaa's neighbours had left hurriedly. Doors to most houses stood ajar, and furniture and grain could be seen strewn about inside and at the doorways.

The only people in sight besides Mr. Monyaa were a few rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) who stood guard with AK-47 assault rifles.

Up to one million people in this country of 26 million have died from fighting or war-induced famine since 1983, when rebels seeking more autonomy and economic development for the Christian and animist south

rose up against the Muslim-dominated government.

Aid officials estimate that more than two million people have been displaced, with more than 300,000 taking refuge in Kenya, Zaire and Uganda.

Since government planes began dropping bombs near Kaya last month, more than 30,000 have fled to Uganda, less than 1½ kilometres south. The New Sudan Council of Churches estimates that 70,000 more from other southern towns have gone west to Zaire or elsewhere in southern Sudan.

Those who fled Kaya are living in two U.N. refugee camps at Koboko, Uganda, 15 kilometres from the Sudanese border. Among the new inhabitants of Koboko, there was little hope of returning home anytime soon.

"We will not go back to those towns," said Anglican Bishop Solomon Seme, who had moved to Kaya early this month after being displaced by fighting from his hometown at Yei, 45 kilometres north. "We are tired of being bombed."

Hunger, and not only bombs and bullets, threatens those like Monyaa who remain in southern Sudan.

Fighting has severely hampered programmes to bring food and other aid to an estimated 1.5 million needy in southern Sudan since the end of March, despite an agreement by the government and rebels to let relief workers into the area.

The bombing now threatens to cut off one of two remaining roads into southern Sudan used by relief agencies. The bulk of the food goes further inland and is delivered by air.

"If nobody agrees that this road should be used as a corridor for relief, it will be cut off," said Jean-Luc Sliot, of the U.N. World Food Programme.

The government bombing campaign followed a lull in fighting that had quieted the region during short-lived peace talks in the spring. But when the talks failed to resume in June, the government went on the offensive again.

Over the first eight years of fighting, the SPLA won most of Sudan's south. But in the past two years, the government has retaken most of the region, aided by a split within the guerrilla movement that has pitted factions against each other in heavy fighting.

U.S. Navy reports signs of Iraq port restorations

DUBAI (R) — The United States Navy says Iraq's release of merchant ships, stranded in the port of Basra for more than a decade, could signal the beginning of a restoration of Iraq ports.

A statement by the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in the Gulf said six empty merchant ships had been towed from Basra to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) since late July.

"This renewed activity could signal the beginning of harbour restoration in Iraq, which will eventually lead to a resumption of active shipping into and from that country," it added.

Oil industry sources said they thought the clearing of Basra, Iraq's main oil export terminal, was not related to a limited resumption of Iraqi oil sales currently under discussion between Baghdad and the United Nations.

The U.S. Navy statement said the pace of inspecting and boarding ships by multinational navy vessels enforcing a U.S. trade embargo on Iraq since the Gulf war over Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait had been slowing down.

"It had been approximately 18 months since a ship had been intercepted and boarded in the Arabian Gulf when Gallery inspected the merchant vessel Horizon on July 24," the statement added.

It said Horizon, whose flag is unknown, was one of the six ships towed from Basra to Dubai.

Shipping sources in the Gulf said Iraq had a few months ago told shipowners they could collect their vessels from Basra.

The ships, some of which had been in Basra since before the outbreak of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, were towed into the Gulf through Shatt Al Arab, the waterway jointly controlled by Baghdad and Tehran, the source said.

Iraqi officials said in March they had started a three-year programme to dredge Shatt Al Arab, the only access for ships to Basra port.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan court quashes death sentences

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's supreme court has quashed death sentences imposed on four men found guilty almost a year ago of waging war against the state, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Wednesday. The four, who were also convicted (SUNA) reported Wednesday. The four, who were also convicted of possessing arms, were sentenced to death by hanging on Sept. 26 last year in the remote town of Al Daien in the western state of Darfur. They were identified as Mohammad Barsham, Bashir Darfur. They were identified as Mohammad Barsham, Bashir Darfur. They were identified as Mohammad Barsham, Bashir Darfur.

Missing exile returns to S. Lebanon camp

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (R) — A Palestinian exile who fled a camp in South Lebanon in June returned Wednesday three days after 395 exiles accepted an Israeli offer to return home in stages. Abdul Fatah Al Ousei told reporters at the tent camp he left because he was depressed and frustrated after Israel expelled his family from the occupied territories to Jordan. The 37-year-old history professor from Hebron in the Israel-occupied West Bank said he spent the past two months wandering in the wilderness inside Lebanon. But Lebanese sources said he went to Jordan and saw his family. The Palestinians, who were expelled by Israel on Dec. 17, ended eight months of defiance of Sunday by accepting an Israeli offer to take back 187 in September. Israel said it would take back the rest in December.

Iraq pledges to treat jailed Westerners well

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Iraq's government, hoping to reverse a trend of deteriorating relations with Sweden, has pledged fair treatment of three jailed Swedes, the news agency IT reported Tuesday. In a letter to the Swedish parliament, Iraqi Parliament Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh said: "The Iraqi government wants the good treatment to continue in line with Arab moral standards," it said. Christer Stromgren, Stefan Wihlborg and Leif Westberg are serving a seven-year sentence in a prison outside Baghdad for allegedly entering Iraq. The engineers accidentally strayed over the border from Kuwait in September 1992. Also last year two Britons, who crossed the border, were charged with espionage and sentenced to seven and 10 years in prison. "We wish that their (the Swedes) case is decided along with prisoners from other countries in accordance with international standards and practice," the Iraqi official was quoted as saying. The letter was in reply to an appeal made by the Swedish parliament last June for the release of the Swedes.

Siamese twins die before separation in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — Siamese twin girls born in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with one heart and one liver have died after four days in the intensive care unit, the hospital said Wednesday. "The hospital would have attempted to separate the babies at the chest and abdomen but had to wait till their condition stabilised," said Dr. Andre Assadourian, director of Al Wasl Hospital where they died Tuesday night. The twins, weighing 1.65 kilograms, were born prematurely after 27 weeks to an Omani woman Saturday.

Bulgaria to supply Turkey with water

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria will help its drought-stricken neighbour Turkey irrigate rice fields in return for 4.5 million in goods and services, the Bulgarian government said on Tuesday. A government statement said Bulgaria would release 40 million cubic metres of water for the Zhebchevo dam in southern Bulgaria to try to ease the drought in Turkey. According to the statement, the water supply to Turkey would not form irrigation of the Bulgarian regions around the dam. Officially, said electricity would probably be included among the 4.5 million worth of goods and services that Bulgaria will receive in return from Turkey. The list of goods and services will be negotiated by the two countries in three weeks' time.

'Traffic silence' in Sudan on Monday

KHARTOUM (R) — All traffic in the western Sudanese state of Darfur will come to a halt at five a.m. on Mondays and remain stationary for 24 hours, the Sudan News Agency SUNA said Wednesday. Traffic will halt under a Monday no-drive rule decreed by state Governor Colonel Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair to cut fuel consumption. All public and private sector vehicles in the state will have to stop where they are at five a.m. every Monday and stay there for 24 hours. Only vehicles serving vital utilities will be exempt. A committee set up to monitor implementation of the measure, nicknamed "the traffic silence," has said that it will only apply to the two biggest towns in the state, Al Fashir and Nyala, when the measure takes effect for the first time next Monday. Sudan is facing a severe fuel shortage because of lack of hard currency to import fuel.

Saudi prince fractures skull in accident

MARSEILLE (AP) — A 15-year-old great-nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia fractured his skull in a jet-ski accident on the French Riviera. Prince Khalid Ben Walid Ben Talal was scheduled to undergo surgery Wednesday in the neurosurgical ward in Marseille's Timone hospital. Hospital officials described his condition as "proper." The prince suffered a bad fall from a jet-ski travelling at high speed Tuesday evening near the chic resort of Saint-Tropez, where the royal yacht, Alcajou, is anchored. Crew members of the yacht, following in a dinghy, provided first aid. The prince suffered a skull fracture, but was flown by helicopter to Marseille, about 120 kilometres east. Other details on his condition were not available. The youth's father, King Fahd's nephew Prince Walid, was at the hospital, officials said.

Thieves plunder Egypt's tombs; dealers sell treasures worldwide

By Lachlan Carmichael and Mohammad Dakkhany
Agence France Presse

QURNA, Egypt — Thieves are plundering many of Egypt's ancient tombs at will and selling the treasures to a secret network of dealers involved in a global market for stolen art.

Egypt is powerless to prevent many of the thefts because much of its heritage lies unprotected, undiscovered, and unrecorded near or beneath villages, towns and cities, archaeologists and Egyptian antiquities officials said.

"It is a great problem. More and more things just go out of the country," Daniel Polz, a researcher at the German archaeology institute in Cairo, told AFP. He said he has seen items in European galleries which he suspects were stolen.

The problem is especially bad in Qurna, a village some 650 kilometres south of Cairo which is built on the site of hundreds of tombs of kings, queens, and nobles who lived between 1580 B.C. and 1060 B.C.

"It's an open museum," one official lamented.

Antiquities officials were alerted to an apparent case of grave robbing in May when Fatma Nagdy, a widow in Qurna, reported hearing voices, digging and explosions beneath her mud house.

"They finally entered her home this month and began digging in search of the mystery tunnellers, but Ms. Nagdy said: 'I still hear the voices after they (the officials) finish work every day.'"

Villagers are the chief suspects. One Qurna villager is currently serving a three-year jail sentence for having dug through the bottom of his home and unearthed some artefacts.

"The villagers know more than we (archaeologists) do sometimes about access to the sites," Mr. Polz said, "they know the shafts, passages, and the tombs."

The best solution is to move the 500 families from the Qurna area to a new village, according to M.A. Nureddin, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation. "Then we'll have no possibility at all for tomb robbing."

A nearby site has already been selected and the relocation could take place within the next few years, but the villagers are reluctant to move from their ancestral homes.

Mr. Nureddin also said he was concerned that homes were built too closely to tombs, temples and other sites in Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city, as well as at the temples of Idku and Esna in the south.



Gaber Mahmoud, a villager from Qurna in Upper Egypt, and his family live in an ancient Pharaonic tomb (AFP photo)

Authorities believe a "high percentage" of grave robbers from Qurna have married foreign women in Luxor to make it easier to smuggle artefacts out of Egypt.

"They married the middleman," Abdul Rahman Abo Zaid, the Luxor city council chief, told AFP.

Egyptian collectors and dealers were until recently allowed to sell to foreigners, but since a law passed in 1983 they can only sell to Egyptians and must register each item sold.

Stolen wood and stone statues, murals, stelae, mummies, amulets and jewellery pass through a clandestine network until they resurface on both illegal and legal art markets in New York, London, Paris, Zurich and Tokyo, experts say.

"They find their way up a chain until they find a legal market," according to Caroline Wakeford, operations manager for the Art Loss Register data base in London.

The Art Loss Register, owned by auction houses and insurance companies, tries to prevent sales of stolen art by checking auction catalogues.

The Egyptian government has expressed interest in the data base, she added. Interpol, the International Police Organisation, logs its photographs of stolen art with the data base, including items from Egypt.

The worldwide market for all stolen art is estimated at \$3 billion annually and growing — which is second only to drug trafficking — and Egyptian antiquities are a steady part of it, Ms. Wakeford said.

"It's one of the stable markets that continues to rise gradually," she said.

Ms. Wakeford said it seemed artefacts stolen from places like Qurna would not have been recorded and therefore would not be listed with the data base.

A foreign archaeologist who requested anonymity added that the Egyptian authorities have not properly recorded items, even in warehouses and museums, which makes thefts easy.

He also had indications that the authorities turned a blind eye to thefts. For example, he said he entered a tomb that had clearly been robbed, and the antiquities official escorting him asked him not to report it.

An official for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris, Etienne Clement, said: "There are few countries which have drawn up complete inventories. For Third World countries, it costs a lot of money and takes a lot of time."

Mr. Clement also said international laws protecting cultural property were relatively weak.

A 1970 UNESCO convention against traffic in cultural property has been signed by Egypt, Italy, Spain, Canada and the United States, but not Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland and Japan.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Pi (et Hercule)
17:45	Goal
18:15	Geopolis
19:00	News in French
19:15	Animals
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Too Close for Comfort
21:10	Earth Day Special
22:20	News in English
Movie of the Week: "A Mind to Kill"	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:34	Fajr
05:37	(Sunrise) Duha
12:29	Dhuhr
16:18	'Asr
19:22	Maghrib
21:12	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 510740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.	
WEATHER	
Bulliten supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will continue to be hot and winds will be from the northwest. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	Mm/Max. temp. 21/36
Aqaba	27/40

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Khalil Taslaq	757253
Dr. Ramez Mizawi	748788
Dr. Khalil Jbara	740748
Dr. Mohammad Imran	612332
First pharmacy	661912
Fordows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Naroukh pharmacy	636772
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisan pharmacy	637694
Najm pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mazen Sharani	(-)
Al Quds pharmacy (-)	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rabea Attallah	984424
Deserts 18/37	
Jordan Valley 26/40	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent. Aqaba 27 per cent.	
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	845402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	(2)
Overseas Calls	610230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	731111
Radio Jordan	794402
Water Authority	890100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53301
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53300
Khalil pharmacy	985417

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381/332
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Abul Amin Maternity	642462
Mohas. J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisan	664171/4
Shmeisan Hospital	669131
University Hospital	775112
Al-Musker Hospital	845845
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrefieh	77111/26
Army, Marka	89161/115
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674135
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)905050
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)989590
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)272555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
13:00	Antalia (TK)
13:30	Abu Dhabi, Moscow (GF)
14:00	Riyadh (SU)
16:55	Rome (AZ)
20:05	Cairo (MS)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Beirut (RJ)
07:30	Rome (RJ)
08:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:30	Moscow, Toronto (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00	Paris (RJ)
13:15	Athens (RJ)
13:30	London (RJ)
21:00	Larnaca (CY)
21:05	Dubai, Singapore (RJ)
21:15	Madrid (RJ)
21:45	Jeddah (RJ)
22:30	Thiruvananthapuram, Doha (RJ)
22:45	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:05	Larnaca (CY)
09:15	Beirut (ME)
10:00	Antalia (TK)
12:15	Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
14:00	Antalia (TK)
16:30	Abu Dhabi, Moscow (GF)

15:30	Riyadh (SU)
17:45	Damascus (AZ)
21:25	Cairo (MS)
MARKET PRICES	
Uppercflower price in pils per kg.	
Apples	380/200
Banana	440/240
Banana (Mukammam)	680 / 680
Beans	620 / 620
Beats	520 / 350
Carrot	100 / 50
Cauliflower	280/220
Cherry (red)	180 / 100
Cucumbers (large)	750/600
Cucumbers (small)	100 / 50
Eggplant	170 / 120
Garlic	170 / 50
Grapes	700 / 500
Lemon	300/200
Marrow (large)	580 / 480
Marrow (small)	150 / 100
Mint	250 / 200
Okra	50
Onion	600/500
Onion (dry)	140 / 70
Orange	340/200
Peaches	600/500
Pepper (hot)	360 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	300 / 200
Potato	250 / 150
Tomato	1300 / 60

Queen graduates 217 college students

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday graduated the 11th class of the Gordoba (sic) Community College in Zarqa.

Upon arrival at the college, the Queen, who is the Honorary Chairman of the college board of trustees, was received by Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad, Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omani, the governor of Zarqa, as well as the dean of the college and members of the executive committee.

Established in 1981, Gordoba College is the only intermediate

community college for women in Zarqa Governorate. The college offers diplomas in 13 specialisations ranging from business management and computer programming to sciences and fine arts.

To assist students from abroad to pursue their studies in Jordan, the college offers accommodations in a student dormitory. It also provides financial aid to needy students through a fund-raising social committee.

At the ceremony, the Queen distributed certificates to 271 graduates, and honoured four

students with gifts for their academic excellence in the comprehensive examination which is offered by the Ministry of Higher Education.

In appreciation for their contribution and assistance to the college, the Queen presented five members of the local community with shields of the college.

At the end of the ceremony, Queen Noor was presented with the shield of the college.

Accompanying the Queen to the graduation was Senator Leila Sharaf.

Crown Prince calls for realistic labour statistics

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday said the concerned authorities should scrutinise figures given on the volume of unemployment in Jordan and on the Jordanian workforce, adding that the aim here is for realistic rather than exaggerated figures.

Addressing a meeting by members of the executive committee of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, Prince Hassan called for sincere coordination between the volume of workforce and the volume of work with a view to developing human resources in a manner that would best suit the local labour market.

Referring to the circumstances facing Jordan, the Crown Prince said the heavy political and economic burdens

imposed on the country, particularly in terms of finding employment for workers, were aggravated with the return to the Kingdom of expatriate workers from the Gulf states over the past three years.

He urged the federation to create a specialised team to deal with labour-related issues and to conduct studies and help implement recommendations taken by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in its most recent seminar on training job seekers.

Prince Hassan also urged the federation, which groups 17 different unions, to interact with various organisations and promote the labour movement with a view to developing the national economy.

Minister of Labour Khaled Al Ghazawi noted that the

ministry, in its drive to improve the living conditions of workers, has recently raised the minimum social security benefit to JD50 per month.

At the meeting also, Ahmad Atwan, head of the Vocational Training Corporation briefed the attendees on the training seminars and courses which he said are held in cooperation with the federation in order to raise the standard of workers in several specialisations.

Khaled Khreim, the federation secretary general, presented a list of issues connected with unemployment, linking education with the needs of the local labour market, vocational training, fair distribution of industrial projects in different areas and other matters.

King reaffirms Arabs' need for democracy

Jordan committed to supporting Arab states — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday reaffirmed the need for Arab people to enjoy democracy, freedom and political pluralism, saying that basic Arab human rights and human dignity should be safeguarded so that the Arabs can create a new reality and the nation can achieve its aspired progress.

At a meeting at the Royal Court with a delegation representing the Arab Popular Forces Congress, now on a visit to Jordan, King Hussein said "the world around us is changing while our nation continues to live through the worst circumstances and face the most difficult challenges, something that calls for opening a dialogue for the sake of re-building inter-Arab relations on new sound bases that ensure the interests of all Arabs," King Hussein said.

Saad Qasem Hammoudi, head of the delegation, presented the King with a briefing on the delegation's mission, which is mainly designed to gather support for the current efforts to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday voiced Jordan's keenness and its stable and firm commitment to supporting Arab states under any circumstances and in the face of hardships.

Speaking at a meeting with the earlier delegation, Dr. Majali said Jordan would never give up its support for its sister states.

"We will back efforts aimed at lifting the embargo on the Iraqi people," the premier said at the meeting held at the prime ministry.

"Jordan calls for the re-establishment of solidarity and unity of ranks among Arab coun-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday discusses closing Arab ranks with a delegation of the Arab Popular Forces congress (Petra photo).

tries, especially at the current stage which witnesses the shaping of a new world order," continued the prime minister.

Arab solidarity is essential to resisting pressures, said Dr. Ma-

jali.

Jordan will continue with an open heart and an extended hand to back any sincere Arab endeavour towards this end, he added.

Restoration of Jordan's rela-

tions with Arab states will not be at the expense of any one or directed against anyone, but rather would aim at putting affairs back on track, the premier said.

Mr. Hammoudi echoed the prime minister's call for solidarity among Arab states to be built on a sound basis and on the principles of the Arab League Charter.

The congress appreciates Jordan's principled stands as have often been expressed by His Majesty King Hussein and particularly in his last address to the nation Tuesday evening, said Mr. Hammoudi.

He called on the Arab World to end the embargo on Iraq now that it has implemented all U.N. resolutions.

The congress delegation comprised representatives from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Sudan.

Government to cancel some import-export regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — The government will soon cancel procedures that made it mandatory for merchants to obtain import-export licences and will also cancel fines normally imposed on merchants violating rules concerning certificates of origin, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Wednesday.

At a meeting with members of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Dr. Saket said the government, which is keen on orienting the public on its various decisions, plans to sell the official gazette to the public like other daily newspapers.

Furthermore, the minister said, it is keen on and will pursue efforts to ensure private sector's participation in decision-making concerning trade, which is normally taken by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Dr. Saket was responding to

several queries raised by the chamber members who criticised the government for lacking a clear financial policy and not seriously dealing with the question of tax reform.

The chamber members demanded that the Income Tax Law be revised along with the Companies Law and the amendment of the law on encouraging investment.

The speakers demanded that exports to Iraq be considered according to a list of products rather than the names of the exporters as well as a reduction on the fees levied by the Aqaba Port in order to reduce the cost to the consumer.

They further demanded that civil and military consumer markets should sell non-essential commodities. They said that the government should create a market to run parallel to the Ministry of Supply.

Majali urges collection of municipal, village taxes

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday urged municipal and village councils to introduce measures to ensure the collection of taxes from local residents in their areas, so that the councils would have sufficient funds to carry out development projects.

Addressing a meeting attended by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan, Dr. Majali said that much of the current routine should be eliminated so that procedures can be speeded-up.

lities and perform in a spirit of cooperation with local residents.

He said that the civil servants and the municipalities staff are there to offer services to the public. "We must back our words with deeds and seriously work towards overcoming obstacles and resolving problems with open minds and through responsible dialogue," said Dr. Majali.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Farhan and directors of departments outlined the ministry's services and plans.

Anti-smoking march to draw 5,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — In its drive to stem the smoking habit in the Kingdom, the Jordan Anti-Smoking Society (JASS) announced Wednesday that it is organising a sponsored march in Amman on Aug. 27, adding that at least 5,000 marchers are expected to participate in the event.

The march is organised in cooperation with the Haya Arts Centre, the Health Ministry, Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Housing Bank and the Coca Cola Company in Jordan.

Nabil Riyal, director of the Haya Arts Centre in Amman, said that the march, which will be held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, will be attended by Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, representatives of various organisations and a large number of children and their parents.

He said marchers will start off at the Arts Centre in Shmeisani, proceed to Wadi Saqra and then to the Fifth Circle and end up at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun, where a major celebration will be held.

Proceeds from the march, which will be held under the slogan "Jordan's Air is Healthy and Clean," will be used to finance the anti-smoking projects as well as those of JASS, Mr. Riyal said.

He said part of the proceeds benefiting his centre will finance the construction of a public garden, a library and an Amman Museum, among other schemes.

The march mainly targets children and teenagers who should be cautioned against smoking because of its dangerous health effects, said Mr. Riyal.

Walid Nazzal, a member of JASS, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the march was part of the society's continuing efforts in cooperation with public and private sector organisations to combat smoking.

It is meant as part of the awareness campaign against the nicotine habit and towards protecting non-smokers from the danger of smoke, Mr. Nazzal added.

He said the society plans to open a specialised clinic to help smokers quit the habit.

The society's share of the proceeds of the Aug. 27 march will be used to finance anti-smoking campaigns through seminars and other activities, Mr. Nazzal explained.

Last month, the ministry of health issued a tough advisory calling for sweeping measures against smoking in public places.

The instructions call for a total ban on smoking at all government offices and public sector institutions.

Town residents use local quarry firm

DEIR ABI SAEED (Petra) — The residents of Kufri Al Ma town in the Deir Abi Saeed district of Irbid governorate are suing a local firm which is digging a sand quarry close to their homes; they claim that the project is a source of heavy pollution.

Mayor Yassin said the quarry lies where a 20-metre-wide street was planned.

The municipality had earlier raised the issue with the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, and the department responded by inspecting the site and giving assurances that no licence would be granted, complained Mr. Yassin.

At least 500 dunums of productive land will be affected in addition to the contamination to the atmosphere should the project proceed, said the mayor.

He demanded that the ministry cancel the licence because, he said, it violates the Municipalities Law.

As soon as they learned that the firm had secured a licence to

quarry in the area they rallied to protest the project, the residents said.

The project contractor said he had obtained a licence and leased large areas of land to start production.

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JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION, STAGE II PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will be issuing tender documents for the construction of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, Stage II. The contract period shall be between 1994 and 1996.

The project which is an extension to an existing power station, consists of two 130 MW oil fired power generating units together with the necessary accessories and civil works, which are grouped into four major contracts. The expected dates for issue of tender documents to bidders are as follows:

Turbine Island (Tender No. 46/93)	End of August 1993
Boiler Island (Tender No. 47/93)	End of August 1993
Civil Works (Tender No. 48/93)	End of September 1993
Fuel Oil Tanks (Tender No. 49/93)	Mid-September 1993

and tenderers shall submit their offers in the first week of January 1994.

The bidders will be allowed to bid for one tender package, any combination thereof or a single turnkey contract. It is expected that this project will be financed by loans from Arab and international funding agencies. The funding will be in accordance with the agencies special terms and conditions.

Tender documents for any of the contracts will be available from the address below.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Zahran Street-7th Circle
P.O. Box 2310
Amman-Jordan
Fax: 818336

A brief summary of the project containing a project description, some technical data and a general statement on scope of supply for each package is available for interested bidders to collect from the Procurement Department at JEA's offices.



HIGHLIGHTING THE HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday chairs a meeting of directors of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Community Centres. QAF is a social institution which strives to highlight the humanitarian dimension in any development process and achieve human resources development, Princess Basma said. The fund should ensure more involvement by local residents in its various activities, and QAF branches should aim at helping local communities become self-reliant, as this is QAF's main objective, she said. The meeting reviewed services offered through the community centres, and conducted an assessment of programmes and plans with a view to covering the largest number of beneficiaries. A general QAF plan for decentralisation and QAF's five-year-plan to be implemented in various governorates were revised.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and Arab Union of Food Industries Director General Jabbar Al Jaff Wednesday sign an agreement to establish the union's data bank centre in Amman (Petra photo).

Arab food industry union to start data bank in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Union of Food Industries (AUFI) has chosen Amman as the site for its data bank which provides information on economic and industrial affairs to various Arab states.

AUFI Director General Jabbar Al Jaff and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday signed an agreement for the establishment of the data bank centre in the Jordanian capital.

Expressing appreciation to Jordan for hosting the centre, Dr. Al Jaff said Jordan has been serving host to a great number of Arab League organisations, thus con-

tributing to the development of joint Arab economic action and pan-Arab solidarity.

Dr. Al Jaff said the centre was designed to serve as a nucleus for an Arab common market. It will collect information and statistics for dissemination to various Arab states in order to promote coordination among these countries in economic matters, said Dr. Al Jaff.

In welcoming the centre's establishment in Jordan, Mr. Al Hassan said the Kingdom has always showed its keenness to contribute to any effort aimed at bringing about collective action among Arab states.

He said he hoped that the centre will offer a useful service to the Arab World, adding that Jordan would offer it all facilities and assistance to enable it to create the projected Arab common market and promote Arab food industries.

According to the AUFI, the data bank, the first of its kind and level in the Arab World, hopes to deal directly with chambers of industry and trade in matters related to food industries and to spread information and related data to various organisations, industrialists and merchants in the Arab World.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esbelta Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussein Judi and Shawkat Al Alousi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by a group of young Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy and paintings at Tareq Park in Irbid City.

SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, on the conclusions of the International Human Rights Conference, which was held recently in Vienna, at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Love Bug" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre.

JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

- ★ Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the Holy City of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of books on various subjects at Al Hashmiah Plaza, downtown Amman.
- ★ Concert by Lebanese singer Julia Boutros at the Roman Amphitheatre, downtown Amman, at 8 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Take two for Libya

LIBYA'S APPARENT decision to leave open the possibility that two of its nationals who are accused of having blown up a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988 he tried in Britain or the U.S. assumes a calculated risk that might nevertheless be worth taking. The crisis over the Pan American jetliner that was blown up in the air five years ago and took the lives of hundreds of innocent passengers took a turn to the worst last week when Washington, Paris and London decided to turn up the heat again on Tripoli by threatening to impose stiffer and more comprehensive sanctions on Libya if the two were not handed over for trial by Oct. 1.

While this western intimidation of Libya is inexcusable on strictly legal grounds, there may be a way out for the Libyans to accept the proposal of allowing the suspects to voluntarily stand trial in Britain or the U.S. The Qadhafi regime should anyway strive to prevent certain quarters from wreaking havoc in his country under the guise of seeking to administer justice.

The Libyan foreign minister did in fact confirm Tripoli's willingness to play ball over the dispute by telling the world Tuesday that the two men "have the right to turn themselves over to whomever they want." Thus, by signalling its readiness to have the two stand trial in England or the U.S., Tripoli may yet succeed in pulling the rug under the feet of its foes. If the effort succeeds, the enemies of Libya will be denied the opportunity to strike against the country for reasons that may go beyond the Lockerbie case.

The tribulations of Libya, over sacrificing its own domestic laws which disallow forceful extradition of Libyans to foreign states in favour of foreign political considerations, could be lessened by assurances that any trial of the two Libyans in Britain or the U.S. would be fair and subject to international supervision. The United Nations can and should be represented in any such court procedure since Washington, London and Paris are pegging their stance to U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted against Libya. A close international scrutiny of the projected trial of the suspects over and above the normally fair court procedures in either country may end up vindicating Tripoli's protestations that the Libyans in question are truly innocent of the charges against them.

London and Washington in particular stand to lose a lot of credibility if the suspects were to be found not guilty. If, on the other hand, they are found guilty as charged, the Libyan government could still escape international punishment in the form of sanctions or otherwise after having complied with the international will. Given the fact that the "evidence" against the Libyans is not that much convincing or credible, Tripoli is wise to give justice a chance even though it is going to be administered by foreign courts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY ANNOUNCING a temporary amendment election law, His Majesty King Hussein has put an end to rumours and controversies rife in Jordan over the past few months, said Al Dustour Daily. The new law, which draws its spirit from the Constitution, will enable Jordanians to vote freely and fairly in the coming general elections and prove once again their strict adherence to democracy, said the paper. Indeed, the new law which was recommended by the government guarantees equality and fairness for all Jordanians, regardless of their origin or their creed, it said. The law is inspired by the country's domestic circumstances and in light of the developments in the region, the paper added. Under the new law, each citizen can choose only one person to represent him or her in Parliament, thus ensuring equal rights for all, it pointed out. Jordanians should heed King Hussein's words in his national address urging them to participate in the election and exercise their right which enhances democracy in the country, called the paper. It echoed the King's words which said that democracy was a requirement for Jordan which now stands at the threshold of two important endeavours: completing the democratic process and pursuing efforts to achieve the goals of the Great Arab Revolt.

COMMENTING ON a planned visit to the United States by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said the visit aims at urging Washington to stop North Korea from supplying missiles to Syria. Salameh Ekour said that after failing through its diplomatic efforts to stop North Korea from selling arms to Syria, Israel is turning to its ally, the United States, to do that work for it. It is clear that Israel, which continues to build a formidable arsenal of mass destruction weapons, is determined to prevent the Arabs from acquiring technology for progress in the scientific, military and other fields, said the writer. Israel is no doubt pursuing this policy in order to ensure its continued domination of the Arab region now that the Iraqi weapons, missiles and scientific centres have been destroyed, he added. The writer said one could not rule out the possibility of the United States moving to curb arms shipment to Syria through the U.N. Security Council. He said that Washington could also do that through its influence on other nations that could sell advanced technology to the Arabs. Should this happen, the writer said, the Arabs are expected to remain passive as they did watching Israel inciting Washington and the United Nations to destroy the Iraqi weapons and scientific centres.

Gandhi, Demjanjuk and Judaism's lex talionis

By G.H. Jansen

MAHATMA GANDHI, of all people, would have fully understood — and fully condemned — the 16-year-old campaign of revenge which the Zionists and the state of Israel have waged against John Demjanjuk, a former Ukrainian, accused to have been a guard in the Nazi concentration camps in Europe during World War II.

Sixteen years ago, Jewish "Nazi hunters" in the U.S. started their campaign to have this Ukrainian auto worker in Cleveland, Ohio, extradited to Israel to be tried there for "crimes against humanity" and where, it was assumed, he would be found guilty and imprisoned for the rest of his life (or possibly sentenced to death and executed as had happened to Adolf Eichman, as a special case, since there is no death sentence in Israeli law). For nine years Mr. Demjanjuk and his lawyers delayed the extradition by arguing that his Jewish accusers had wrongly identified him as "Ivan the Terrible," a guard in the death camp of Treblinka who supervised the herding of Jews into the gas ovens where they were poisoned en masse. Finally the U.S., under Jewish pressure, agreed to the extradition on a technical point, though there is evidence that the U.S. departments of immigration and of justice had their doubts at that time about the identification. For the last seven years Mr.

Demjanjuk has been held in Israel passing through the Israeli judicial system all the way to the supreme court. A lower court in Israel found him guilty and sentenced him to death. Two weeks ago the supreme court ruled that, because of evidence from recently released material from files of the former Soviet Union, there was "reasonable doubt" about Mr. Demjanjuk being really "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka; because of this the death sentence was quashed and his deportation from the U.S. to Israel was declared invalid so he could leave Israel for whichever country would admit him.

But the supreme court then muddled the waters by saying that there was credible evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk had been a guard at another death camp, Sobibor. This finding was immediately seized upon by death camp survivors in Israel, and elsewhere, and by the Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Foundation which petitioned the court to have Mr. Demjanjuk held in Israel to face fresh charges of crimes against humanity at Sobibor. On Aug. 18, 1993, the supreme court rejected these petitions and declared that Mr. Demjanjuk should be released and deported from Israel, thus frustrating the vengeance-seekers who, however, are still attempting to have him held in Israel on various technical points.

The Mahatma comes into

this picture because a public opinion poll showed that two-thirds of Israelis questioned said that Mr. Demjanjuk, after being held for sixteen years and then released, should be held on another charge, for a further trial and, possibly, punishment.

"The Jewish desire for revenge, the lex talionis, of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth which Gandhi saw as a part of Jewish morality and which he condemned as obstinate and unenlightened has been revealed not only in the Demjanjuk case but also through Israeli public approval — three quarters of those polled — of the recent Operation Accountability in southern Lebanon, one objective of which, according to the Israeli prime minister, was the creation of a flood of refugees to put pressure on the Lebanese government to do something Israel wanted it to do."

Israeli feelings on this issue were clearly explained when a spokesman for the extremist, racist, hardline Kach party (which believes that all Arabs should be expelled from the Jewish state) said: "We are not looking for justice, we are looking for revenge."

It was in 1938, when Palestine was in the news because of fighting there between Arabs and Zionists, that the Mahatma was asked for his views on

the Palestine issue and when he also delivered his opinions on Judaism and the Jews. On Palestine he was completely pro-Arab and anti-Zionist. Thus: "Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French. It is

Gandhi, the apostle of ahimsa, non-violence, suggested that the Jews should use non-violence in Palestine — and in Germany. He then went on to an animadvert on the position of Judaism and Jews towards non-violence: "The Jews, so far as I know, have never practised non-violence as an article of faith or even as a deliberate policy. Indeed it is a stigma against them that their ancestors crucified Jesus. Are they not supposed to believe in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? ... Compared to Christianity, Judaism is obstinate and unenlightened." Talking about a Jewish friend of his in South Africa, he said: "What is true of him is true of thousands of Jews who have not even thought of loving an enemy. With them, as with millions, revenge is sweet, to forgive is divine." On another occasion he mentioned that Judaism had not been able to rise "to the height of forgiveness."

The Jewish desire for "revenge", the lex talionis, of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth which Gandhi saw as a part of Jewish morality and which he condemned as "obstinate and unenlightened" has been revealed not only in the Demjanjuk case but also through Israeli public approval — three quarters of those polled — of the recent "Operation Accountability" in southern Lebanon, one objective of which, according to the Israeli prime minister, was the crea-

tion of a "flood of refugees" to put pressure on the Lebanese government to do something Israel wanted it to do.

Faced with the appalling fact that Israel aimed at, and its people approved, several hundred thousand innocent civilians being rendered homeless, conscience-stricken Jews in Britain have asked, in letters to the newspapers, how Israel, a country of refugees, could do such a thing.

But of course one can if one is brought up in the belief that if an injury is done the injured should seek not justice but revenge. And not mere revenge of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth but, as in the latest operation, 130 deaths for seven deaths (the "going rate" of deaths in the Palestinian intifada is about 20-25 Palestinians killed for every Israeli. And this was the case during Israel's invasion of Lebanon when less than 1,000 Israeli soldiers died for 20,000 Lebanese civilians).

Thus, far more significant than the decision by the Israeli supreme court is the fact that the vengefulness of Israeli public opinion on two recent events has more than validated the stern strictures of Mahatma Gandhi over 50 years ago.

It is the strictures of the Mahatma, based on moral principles, that the Indian government, under pressure from the U.S. and acting on considerations of expediency, conveniently forgot when, last year, it opened full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Opposition fizzling out

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein put his weight behind the decision to change the Election Law.

"The government relied on the King's popularity to pass the changes," said one observer. "No government could have done it on its own."

"In his speech, the King sent a message to the people who trust him and believe in him, that this (changing the law) is his decision," said one former deputy.

The opposition knew the majority of the people would not go against a decision taken by the King, said one observer.

People started expressing their support for the King immediately after he announced the electoral change. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday reported that "leading personalities, heads of municipalities and tribal figures" sent the King cables expressing their "total support" for his decision to change the Election Law.

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi also sent King Hussein a cable in which he emphasised that "amending the Election Law would represent a bright turning point in enriching our democratic march."

Mr. Lawzi said the Senate fully supports the electoral changes announced by King Hussein in a

televised speech Tuesday.

Other observers disavowed any opponents of changing the Election Law were encouraged by the King's assurances that he would personally see to it that the elections be fair and free.

But in the view of many observers, the major reason behind the "weak" reaction to electoral change which the majority of political parties oppose is the "non-existence of real opposition in Jordan."

"The Islamists never represented true opposition," one former deputy, Mr. Faris Nabulsi, said. "The left is weak and divided," said another former deputy.

And the opposition in general "has no political platform or set of choices around which it could mobilise people," said Mustafa Hamareh, a political science professor who heads Jordan University's Strategic Studies Centre. Dr. Hamareh now expects election campaigns to start in full swing and other observers say the next Parliament will continue the debate on the Election Law.

The changes announced Tuesday touched on one aspect of the law only. The next Parliament would probably deal with other issues such as voting districts, minority seats and the age of eligible voters, observers said.

Minority may scramble strategies

(Continued from page 1)

feasibility of programmes of candidates regardless of religious background," he said.

By the same token, Christian candidates would be better off trying to get together and reduce their numbers in the race by consensus since the so-called "community votes" could be easily splintered with a high number of candidates trying to win the hearts and minds of the voters, says the senior analyst.

A former minister who had lost his bid for a House seat in 1989 but intends to run again in November believes that "the Christian voters are a highly intelligent electorate."

"What matters for a majority of them is the qualifications of the candidate rather than party affiliations or religious appeal," said the ex-minister.

According to former Karak Deputy Issa Mdanat, the lone communist member in the dissolved Parliament, the overriding factor that will be quite visible when results come out of the Nov. 8 polls is victories with substantially reduced

number of votes when compared with comparative figures from 1989.

For instance, says Mr. Mdanat, "I got 10,500 votes in the last elections, but this time I do not think I would get more than 3,000."

But then, he adds, "the cases with Muslim candidates will not be any different, given the fact that there would be dozens if not hundreds of aspirants to the House from each constituency."

Saad Haddadin, who won the Christian seat from Madaba in 1989 also with considerable help from the Brotherhood, believes that candidates have to keep all options open and not take anything for granted or draw comfort from the results of the last elections.

"There is a host of new factors in the equation," he said. "The four years of parliamentary life since 1989 have raised the political awareness of the voters, and this, coupled with the change in the electoral process, has to be given utmost consideration."

Britain, France cautious on Libya

(Continued from page 1)

JANA reported that Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qadhafi held a private meeting Tuesday night, then met again Wednesday morning with their aides.

The report, monitored in Cairo, gave no information about the content of the talks.

The Egyptian daily Al Ahram reported that Col. Qadhafi would pay a return visit to Egypt in September.

Libya said Tuesday it was prepared to discuss the two Lockerbie suspects standing trial in Britain or the United States with a

U.N. Security Council representative or the U.N. secretary general, having until now insisted they should only be tried in a "neutral country."

It also expressed readiness to cooperate with French magistrates probing the bombing of the UTA airliner.

The British Foreign Office in London said "what we are interested in is what they actually do," in response to Tripoli's offer to discuss whether the two Libyans could be tried in Britain or the United States.

Islamists thrown off balance

(Continued from page 1)

meaning of success or failure that presents itself in our question which would affect the future of our nation, and the future of man whom God has honoured," the King said. "Thus, I urge them to be loyal and to work sincerely. They have contributed in drafting the National Charter and the development of the country alongside all citizens, Muslims and Christians alike."

"What do we need more than this?" a moderate IAF leader asked. "The King has placed us with him in the same trench."

But the "moderates" also recognise that the final say is in the hands of the group's 16-member political office which finds itself divided, almost down the middle, between them and the "hawks".

An emergency meeting of that office was held Wednesday morning during which, sources said, "the atmosphere was tense and the mood was both confused and inflexible."

The "hawks" were still demanding that the IAF join forces with other opposition political forces in the country which are preparing to take the government to court over the new election law and then boycott the ballots if the courts rejected their case, one of the sources said.

The "moderates" are now hoping for a last-minute intervention from the King which, they say, will help them win over the members who are still undecided over what the next step should be. They, however, stress that moves from the Majali government for that purpose "would not be acceptable."

"We will not have a dialogue with this government," one of the more influential "moderates" said. But he added that he believed that a positive step from the "diwan" (court) could "turn the tables against the hawks and to our advantage."

A meeting of the Muslim Brotherhood movement's political office has been called for Thursday and other meeting of the executive committee of the IAF was called for Saturday. It was expected that a vote on whether to boycott the polls would be taken in Saturday's meeting.

Most of those interviewed Thursday believed that the group will forge ahead with its plans to sue the government for introducing a temporary election-law but that it would win enough support for participation in the Nov. 8 elections.

"It will be difficult," one of them said, "but we think that the front will want to keep its good relations with the regime and would avoid a confrontation."

Israel awaiting concessions before talks with PLO

By Marjorie Olster

Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel has moved closer to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation but will not go all the way unless it gains concessions in peace talks with Palestinians, analysts and politicians say.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin still refuses to negotiate with Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders outside the Israeli-occupied territories but he will keep talking with local Palestinians even now that the PLO has appointed them to senior positions.

"Israel would not commit the final act of talking directly to the PLO without getting a very good price," said Dedi Zucker, a member of Parliament from the Dovish Meretz bloc in Mr. Rabin's left-centre government.

Mr. Zucker, who with Environment Minister Yossi Sarid met senior PLO official Nabil Shaath in Cairo last month, told Reuters that price would probably be a softening of PLO opposition on key issues in the peace talks with Israel.

Israel did not blink last week when the PLO in Tunis gave top jobs to Palestinian negotiators from the occupied territories for the first time. It called the move "gimmicky" and said nothing was changed in the 21-month-old talks due to resume on August 31.

"There is a Palestinian delegation with which we are negotiating. Its relations with Tunis are its matter," insisted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The PLO appointments ended a leadership fight between Tunis and Palestinians in the occupied territories but the row focused attention in Israel on which of the two groups could deliver a peace agreement quicker.

Israel and the Palestinians have made little headway in talks on interim self-rule in the occupied territories.

"Overall there are weaknesses and plentiful divisions inside the PLO camp," said political analyst Joseph Alpher, director of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

"The impression is they can't get their act together and deliver the prize so why should Rabin take a political risk and bring Tunis in when he doesn't know what he will gain by it?"

Until Mr. Rabin came to power in July 1992, Israel had banned any contact with the PLO, calling it a terrorist group out to destroy the Jewish state.

The former right-wing government started peace talks with Palestinians in 1991 on condition that only residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be negotiators.

While Mr. Rabin has maintained that position on "negotiations", the ban on "contacts" with the PLO has steadily crumbled. His government legalised private contacts and said it did not mind if cabinet ministers met members of the organisation.

Last week members of the ruling Labour Party said opposition

was no longer ideological but only pragmatic.

"In principle most members including me do not oppose talks with the PLO. But we doubt if it would change anything or accelerate the political process," Labour Party Secretary General Nissim Ziv told Reuters.

"So now is not the time to deal with it," he said.

But the more dovish Meretz bloc wants direct talks now. "It will make the negotiations faster, more effective and will bring results," Mr. Zucker said. "You are dealing with a proxy, a middleman. It's not healthy, it confuses things. You have to deal with the one who makes decisions."

Mr. Zucker was heartened that

Mr. Rabin appeared to want to reshape public opinion by signalling that the PLO was in the peace camp and direct talks were possible.

In a speech on Sunday, Mr. Rabin said the chief threat to Israel was from Iran and from Islamic fundamentalism. Peace talks with moderate Arab regimes and movements were the way to neutralise it, he added.

"Among the Palestinians, the division today is between those who support peace or are against peace. If we will not realise that we live in a changing world and will stick to nostalgia and to anachronism, we will not be able to look to the great opportunities that lie ahead," Mr. Rabin said.

LETTERS

Spelling it right

To the Editor:

I am a regular reader of your respected newspaper and I would like to comment on the article by Mariam Shabin under the headline "16 political parties oppose one-person, one-vote 'on its own'." (Jordan Times Aug. 17, 1993).

In her article, Ms. Shabin mentioned the Progressive Arab Ba'ath Party as one of the 16 parties opposing the one-person, one-vote formula while, in fact, the general secretary of the party, Mahmoud Ma'ayta, in his interview with the Al Ra'i daily three days ago, explicitly stated that his party is for the one person, one-vote formula.

Therefore, I wish upon your staff to verify all the information to be published beforehand. I also hope that in future your paper will use the name of the party as I did in this letter.

Hisham Ma'ayta, Amman.

Minority criterion

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate Ann Sawalha for her letter to the editor "To speak or not to speak" (Jordan Times, July 28/29, 1993).

It was truthful, fair and an objective criticism of a serious problem which needs addressing, for the health and comfort of all members of the society.

By contrast, Col. Nasser Mirza's letter "Ingrates around us!" (Jordan Times, Aug. 5/6, 1993) was neither fair nor constructive, regarding the matter in question: adequate and hygienic toilet facilities.

I would like to make a few points in reply to his letter: 1. Writing to the editor of the Jordan Times on such matters does not mean that people are professing "self-appointed journalism". They are just concerned members of our society, standards of hygiene and comfort of public toilets, we are abusing the privilege of free speech, in Col. Mirza's opinion, then I feel he is sadly mistaken!

Jordan is striving to become a democratic country. One of the pillars of democracy is the right of free expression whether the speaker is male, female, new resident or a long standing member of the society. Democracy is not just casting a vote on polling day — turn a hind eye to the duty and inadequate facilities, you are a loyal and proud subject. h) However, if you choose to speak out and draw attention to the situation, you are disloyal and have no pride in your country.

Fortunately, judging by the responses to Col. Mirza's letter and many opinions of friends, I am happy to find that his criterion is

Elizabeth Ann Sahab, Amman.

By Charlene L. Fu
The Associated Press
PEKING — When a foreign news photographer attended a news conference recently, he got a press packet that included an unmarked envelope containing three 100-yuan notes.

Organisers said the money, worth about \$52 and more than the average worker's monthly salary, was handed out to all 60 reporters who attended the news conference about a modelling competition.

"This is to pay for your article," said Zhang Rongjun, one of the organisers. When the photographer, Greg Baker of the Associated Press, insisted on returning the money, the organisers were baffled.

Indeed, the practice of paying off journalists has become so common over the past year that many Chinese reporters won't go to a news conference or write an article without a handout. The usual amount in Peking is 200 to 300 yuan (\$35 to \$52) —

Chinese reporters interpret market reforms as news-for-hire

equal to a month's wages for many journalists.

News organisations also take money for running articles about specific companies or their products.

Television crews demand "filming fees," usually about 10,000 yuan (\$1,740) for a five-minute spot on a local station.

The military newspaper, Liberation Army Daily, published a letter last month complaining that a television crew doing a special report on the military received free transportation, food and lodgings, but still wanted a 10,000-yuan (\$1,740) fee.

The ruling Communist Party is trying to stop the handouts, with appeals to "journalistic ethics," but these ring hollow in view of the party's own policies of controlling and shaping the news. In fact,

one reason the payouts have become popular is that the party and government have cut back on subsidies for news organisations, leaving many looking for new sources of income.

This has coincided with a get-rich-quick fever that has permeated Chinese society since early 1992, when senior leader Deng Xiaoping urged full-speed development of a "socialist market economy."

Chinese took "market" to mean that everything comes at a price. Free parking vanished. Airlines began levying fees to confirm reservations. A few restaurants charged for napkins. Government agencies charged foreign journalists for passes to attend news events.

And Chinese journalists began charging corporations for publishing their news re-

leases, or attending their opening ceremonies.

Some argued that with monthly salaries set at a few hundred yuan (less than \$100) and prices soaring, article fees were the only way to make ends meet.

Chinese journalists have little tradition of serving as crusaders for truth or justice. All news organisations are owned either by party or government departments or government-run schools and research organisations. Instructions on what to publish are sent out daily by the party Propaganda Department.

In 1989, during the massive student-led pro-democracy protests, hundreds of journalists signed petitions calling for a free press only to be arrested, fired or demoted after the movement was crushed. Many who kept

their jobs took refuge in cynicism.

"Handing out little gifts and souvenirs at news conferences has been common practice for a long time. Now, if there's no money, people are surprised," said one Chinese reporter who refused to be identified because he had accepted money.

The dangers of the practice became evident in May, when the government announced that it had shut down a private company for massive fraud. The company, the Great Wall Machinery and electronics High-Tech Corp., had sold more than 1 billion yuan (\$174 million) worth of bonds to the public with promises of high interest and, the government alleged, squandered most of the money.

Many people who bought the bonds said they did so because of articles praising the company in the media, which they took as an indication of government endorsement.

Shortly afterward, 14 Chinese reporters were arrested and accused of taking bribes from Great Wall. The Propaganda Department ordered a halt to reporters taking money for articles.

The order apparently went unheeded, and in early August, the party issued another order, accompanied by a barrage of editorial and commentaries criticising the practice.

Paula Bennett, the Peking general manager of Burson-Marsteller, a major international public relations firm, said she hasn't seen any change in reporters' behaviour.

She said when she tries to explain why her company won't pay reporters for articles, "you can tell the comprehension is just not there."

Diary



FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: A new "independent" weekly is forcefully making its way into the Jordanian press market. Al Da'wa (The Call), which is owned and edited by a Mr. Mohammad Saleh Malkawi, had a number of headlines, not on stories on its front page of the Aug. 9-15 issue. One read "The young woman who undressed in front of (the Lebanese singer) Ragheb Alameh in Jerash." Another said: "An association for Lebanese dancers in Amman." Page three included an article on the "The fast system and the lack of manners" about ways to combat obesity through massages which are "advertised in local newspapers with pictures of semi-nude women in positions arousing sexual instincts in the Freudian way." Another page has a column about the secretary who did not let an old man complain to her boss because the latter was "busy talking to his girlfriend on the phone" at the same time as the telephone operator was listening in on the conversation. The weekly, which appears more in a booklet form than a magazine, carried a commentary about a woman who said that there was no specific call in the Holy Koran on women to wear veils, and the newspaper responded to this by saying that there was no specific call on women to go out nude either. Then there was the story about the deputy — or rather the former deputy — who was caught in his car, by a citizen, in a compromising position "with a girlfriend of his." On the same page, in another column, there was this story about a young man from Ma'an who commented that if the Jerash Festival were held in his town "most of the women" who attended Ragheb Alameh's concert would have been carried to the cemetery immediately. On the next page, there were two articles. One on how the festival was not in line with the "spirit of Islam of the Great Arab Revolt." The weekly carried captions on "young men and women who dance and sing despite our wounds and pains," on "men who sell women underwear," and a Health Ministry brochure on breast-feeding "which uses the colour photo of a woman revealing, in a seductive manner, her breast." It reports on a minister who, "by the way, is a peasant and the son of a peasant" and who allows his daughter to swim in a bathing suit in Amman, but not in his hometown. It also describes the story of a writer, "who is having an affair" with a fellow female writer. On the last page, there was a column on how the Third District deputies will be elected by the "ladies of the rights and the micro-jupe." There is a mention too of a lipstick which will make "women's lips sexy" and of the names of new hair styles for men. As for the names of haircuts for women, "what is hidden is even worse." For those of you who really thought that Al Da'wa was actually means "the Call," we have some real good news. The word in Arabic could also mean "the invitation." An invitation to what, though, we cannot say.

UNPLUGGED MEDIA: The government-owned Petra News Agency, pulled the plug on the second largest Arabic daily in the Kingdom, Al Dustour, and halted transmission of its news to the paper for seven hours on Monday. Not many people in the media thought it was a smart move, especially that Petra is entrusted with transmitting the official news of the government and the Royal Court. But Khaled Mahadeen, who heads the news agency, said he was fed up with the mishandling of Petra news items by Al Dustour. What he really meant was that the newspaper was using Petra news items without giving it proper attribution. Anyway, everyone thought it was a little bit "childish" until Al Dustour proved that it cannot be beaten, not even in being "childish," because the next day, Al Dustour carried a front page column in which it said it was "surprised" by Mr. Mahadeen's move and condemned his behaviour. It did not fail to add that its reporters were capable of filling the newspaper with news without Petra's help, than you very much, and it proceeded to carry Petra news items on all its pages without attribution — Mahadeen naturally thought that was funny — and wrapped up its protest with a "not so smart" commentary by its editor and co-owner Dr. Nabil Al Sharif. He basically accused the director of being jealous of Al Dustour's success and said that the halting of Petra news transmission was a show of allegiance, by Mahadeen, to "influential editors of other newspapers" meaning Al Ra'i Arabic daily's Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed, for which Mahadeen writes editorials at night. Apart from the unnecessary bad feelings which surfaced because of this unnecessary affair, it certainly did not do much for the minister of information who wasted a whole day trying to fix things between the two feuding institutions.

TIPPED OVER: While the whole diary this week is wholly devoted to the press and journalism, we must tell you the story of the "Al Bilad" weekly. On Tuesday, the police raided the premises of the Arabic daily Al Shaab, sealed the building and impounded all the copies, films and plates of the weekly Al Bilad newspaper, which was being printed there. An hour later, however, the police returned and dumped the confiscated copies of the weekly and left. Missing were only 700 copies of those published which the publisher claims, are 25,000 copies. The publisher, Nayef Tourah, described the action as "Stupid." However, security sources say that they had received a tip that a controversial report was being published in Al Bilad and they wanted to check.

Nermeen Murad

A new addition to the lexicon of graft: 'Presidential treatment'

By Michelle Faul
The Associated Press

LAGOS (AP) — A new phrase is making the rounds among civil servants when they ask for a bribe: "Give me presidential treatment."

It's a reference to growing accusations that the military ruler, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, is paying prominent people to rally around him in the tense dispute over his refusal to give up power.

When Gen. Babangida voided the June 12 presidential elections that were to return Africa's most populous nation to civilian rule, the outcry here was enormous and almost non-partisan.

In recent weeks, however, politicians, tribal chiefs, religious leaders and union bosses have been making pil-

grimages to Gen. Babangida's home, Aso Rock Villa, a lavish compound built into a granite hill in the capital of Abuja.

All have left supporting the general's plan for an interim government. The interim government is largely expected to allow the general to extend his eight-year grip on power.

Tell, a magazine that has gone underground since it was banned, said last week that money influenced state legislatures in Katsina, Bauchi, Kaduna, Calabar and Borno to pass resolutions supporting Gen. Babangida.

A Rivers State legislator, Gideon Ekewe, confirmed the report. He said army officers came to his assembly this month asking lawmakers to pass a similar resolution. "They came with 20,000

naira (about \$900) for us to drink and then sign the resolution, saying we would receive the major payment after we did that," Mr. Ekewe told the Associated Press.

He said lawmakers told the officers "to go back and tell Gen. Babangida that Rivers State House of Assembly is not for sale."

Attorney Opeyemi Bamidele, legal assistant to the Senate president, blamed the politicians. "What is sustaining (Babangida) in office is his ability to recognise people's prices and pay them, he gets them to do his dirty work," he said.

Human rights groups who have organised two general strikes in a bid to force Gen. Babangida to honour the June ballot say they also have been offered bribes.

Clement Nwankwo, of the Constitutional Rights Project, said, "It is surprising that nobody (in the government) has come out to deny the charges that are being published with impunity in a country where the regime regularly comes down hard on a critical press."

Corruption has been widespread in Nigeria for a long time, but some political scientists say Gen. Babangida's administration has made it an instrument of state policy. Foreign and local businessmen who are plugged into this system are reluctant to see Gen. Babangida go.

Bribery is endemic in many developing nations where poverty is crushing, and many people often make light of it. In his whimsical book How To Be A Nigerian, journalist Peter Enaharo de-

Put for me how to solicit a bribe

BRIBERY big and small permeates the culture in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. Few people say "give me a bribe." Instead, they use various euphemistic phrases, often in Pidgin.

- Some of the most common:
- Mama, make sun shine on daddy's head.
 - Make I dey chop small (give me something to buy a little food).
 - What's my own?
 - Put for me
 - Do you have something for a friend?
 - Give me the presidential treatment.

scribes the continent's rampant bribery as "tips in anticipation of services rendered."

For the ordinary person, it is impossible to get services without paying a bit of "dash." And many people can't get by without the little extras in a country where the average person earns about \$23 a month.

"Why you say bribe-o? I

just ask a little help," said an airport official indignant at the blunt interpretation of a foreign traveller.

As one leaves Nigeria, airport announcements warn travellers that they will be prosecuted for paying bribes.

But there is still a gantlet to run at every counter on the way out, with the demands getting more demanding the closer they are to the departure gate.

BOOK REVIEWS

Threads of credibility

Profits Of War
By Ari Ben-Menashe
Sheridan Square Press, New York 1992, \$24.95

Ari Ben-Menashe's *Profits Of War* poses a multiple choice quiz for the reader. Are his astonishing revelations true, if somewhat exaggerated? Or is the former Israeli military intelligence operative still serving his country by slipping subtle doses of disinformation into the historical record (which conspiracy theorists will find to be positively hallucinogenic)? Or has Ben-Menashe turned on the government which let him rot in a U.S. jail until a jury decided he had, indeed, been making a government-authorised arms sale to Iran and acquitted him?

I wouldn't presume to choose for you. I couldn't. At times I found the book offered credible explanations for perplexing questions. Ben-Menashe's answer to the mysterious disconnect between Israel's huge, apparently U.S.-blessed, arms sales to Iran between 1980 and 1987 and Oliver North's frenetically amateur arms-for-hostages deals in 1986 makes sense. North's Iran-Contra affair, Ben Menashe writes, was set in motion by the then Labour Party government as a way of getting itself some of the arms profits that Likud had been enjoying.

There are threads of credibility running through Ben-Menashe's account of how Israel tried to stop the arming of Iraq making supergun inventor Gerald Bull for assassination but sparing CIA Director Robert Gates and Chilean arms maker Carlos Cardoen. But snarled with those threads are improbable claims — such as Simon Peres and his "businessman" friend Bruce Rappaport dealing arms to Iraq or Mossad using Palestinians to assassinate scientists involved with Iraqi arms projects. The Palestinians were led to believe they were working for a mafia don, Ben-Menashe writes.

Too much of the history Ben-Menashe recounts hinges on the vagaries of his own life: to be near him, his Sandinista lover goes to work for TAP airlines in Lisbon and introduces Ben-Menashe to the airline's president. Their meeting, he writes, "eventually resulted in the Israeli government chartering planes out of Portugal to carry weapons to Iran." He drops in on and phones Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani as the occasion warrants. He cuts a rare metals deal with Peruvian guerrilla leader Abimael Guzman. He briefs then Vice President Bush. And so it goes on, with one experience of a lifetime every chapter or so. The reader will have to decide whether to begrudge Ben-Menashe his multiple quarter-hours of fame or simply to enjoy the adventures as they unfold. This is easy to do because the book is well written and nicely paced.

'Threat over the horizon'

Rearming Israel: Defence procurement through the 1990s
By Aharon Klieman and Reuven Pedatzur
Westview Press, Oxford 1992, £21.50

Systematic studies of security issues by institutes or individuals indigenous to the Middle East and their subsequent dissemination to the outside world are rarities: Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies provides an exception. In an unofficial capacity, it acquaints the outside world with Israeli perspectives on security-related developments in the region. The only drawback, through no fault of the centre, is the lack of noticeable arguments from other actors in the region, particularly on the Arab side.

Klieman and Pedatzur examine the various operational, economic, industrial and bureaucratic factors which are likely to, or should, influence the defence procurement process in Israel in the 1990s. They then scrutinise the various options and possible sources of weapons acquisition open to Israel through external purchases and internal production. Finally they make recommendations about improving the procurement process in Israel.

The authors present a strong case for updating the Israeli Defence Force's operational doctrine and reorganising its force structure in tune with more recent developments. The rationale is partly economic — the spiralling cost of traditional weapons such as aircraft and tanks at a time when a declining share of the country's economic resources

could be devoted to the defence effort; partly technological — the proliferation of portable and relatively cheap but highly effective anti-tank and anti-aircraft missile systems in the region, which could prove lethal for the implementation of the Israeli army's offensive military doctrine based on the use of traditional weapons; and partly geostrategic — the stockpiling of a mass of hi-tech armaments by the Arabs. This is not only reinforcing the latter's traditional quantitative advantages, but is also eroding Israel's qualitative superiority. What the authors call for is an Israeli army operational planning and procurement strategy which lays the emphasis on the sort of precision-guided munitions and integrated battle-management systems which are products of the recent revolution in electronics and miniaturisation.

Economic constraints are likely to be a restraining influence on Israeli defence procurement throughout the 1990s. Unlike the "throw-money-at-the-problem" approach of an earlier epoch, or some of its richer Arab foes, a stagnant national economy is likely to increasingly define the limits of Israel's defence expenditure in the 1990s. This is reinforced by the uncertainty surrounding the future of U.S. military aid, which now constitutes 30-40 per cent of Israel's defence expenditure.

The authors also pinpoint the duplication of effort, waste of resources and over-competition by Israel's defence industries for particular criticism, and call for their rectification by pooling resources and concentrating effort. The book highlights the predominant position in Israel of the Ministry of Defence, and within it the Israeli army, in laying down guidelines without any system of institutional checks and balances, not even by the cabinet. Hence, the setting-up of an independent supervisory committee to analyse planning and procurement priorities is called for. The book also surveys possible sources of weapons procurement for Israel and discusses three options. A policy of complete independence, developing the full range of its requirements internally, carries prohibitive costs and has now been practically abandoned. Relying on outside sources, which has increasingly become equated with purchasing from the U.S., entails serious risks for the country's freedom of action. According to the authors, a policy of interdependence, in the sense of purchasing foreign systems and fitting them with indigenous subsystems — avionics, missiles, radar etc., is best suited to Israel's needs.

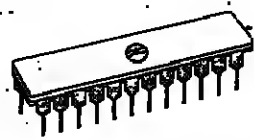
Rearming Israel is a book which should not be ignored by students of Middle East politics and security. However, the book might have told us more about the operational lessons which the Israeli army has drawn from the Gulf War and their impact on Israel's procurement objectives in the 1990s. In one instance, the authors explicitly refrain from naming Israel's major global arms clients "for reasons of sensitivity", making one wonder on how many other occasions facts have been omitted, or added as the case may be, out of similar motives. The authors persistently beat the age-old drum of an Arab military threat "looming over the horizon" — Middle East International.

Muhammad Ziarati

Tough choices

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



Buying a computer programme (software) in order to do personal work is not always simple. Yet, as it has often been mentioned in this very column, making the right choice of software is of prime importance. Most of the time, it is more consequential than the choice of the hardware.

Let's take the most widely used type of programmes on personal computers — word processing (WP), as an example. There are tens of WP packages on the market but only a few have reached "stardom", Microsoft Word, Word Perfect and WordStar, to name only the most famous trio.

Which one is the best? The question cannot be answered and should not be asked in the first place. Although specialised publications tend to publish comparative studies and charts and conduct readers' surveys, no pragmatic analysis can decide which of the above programmes would be selected as a clear winner.

The reason is very simple, all of them are very powerful, comprehensive and lead to the same result. Notwithstanding minor variations, they all have the same features and functions, though not activated in the same way in each programme.

Then how is one supposed to make a choice? Simply according to personal taste. The presentation of the menus, the layout of the functions, the overall aspect of the screens and the ease of use are enough to make a clear distinction between the contenders.

A point to consider is whether the programme should work from DOS (the main operating system) or from the Windows operating system. Most of the well known packages now have both versions. One should remember

that a "Windowed" programme offers enormous possibilities but overall works slower than its DOS version.

For some special applications, none of the above mentioned trio would give satisfactory performance. For those preparing a thesis in mathematics for instance, the CHI-Writer word processing programme would be infinitely superior, thanks to its huge, easy to use, collection of scientific and mathematical symbols.

If you intend to share your work with someone else, it makes sense to use the same software. Though most of the data can be converted from one programme to another, you better do the work without conversion. Nothing works perfectly in conversion and there's always something lost in the way. It's like computers, they are never 100 per cent compatible.

When shopping for software, the user should try and remain "task oriented" and not "name oriented". In other words think about a good spreadsheet software rather than thinking LOTUS 123, Excel or Quattro. A piece of software is not a soft drink! Ask the dealer to make a demonstration and make your own judgment without being influenced.

Belgian restaurant fishes for new customers in London, Tokyo

By Jane Morrison
Reuters

BRUSSELS — The Belgian restaurant chain Chez Leon is hoping to carve out an international niche for the country's most famous dish — steaming plates of mussels served with French fries.

Chez Leon, 100 years old this year, is looking at sites in London and in Tokyo, after successfully opening five franchise outlets in Paris.

"I want Leon to be a compromise between a restaurant and fast food, bringing food to clients who do not want to pay too much but who demand quality," Rudy Vanlancker, one of the restaurant's owners, told Reuters.

Chez Leon started out as a five table restaurant selling mussels and French fries in the historic centre of Brussels in 1893.

The fame of the national dish was embellished by Jacques Brel, Belgium's most

famous modern singer, who referred to it in one of his songs.

Chez Leon's menu in Belgium is much wider now. Abroad it focuses on its core product, accompanied by Belgian beer.

The restaurants — there are five in Belgium and five in Paris — serve four tonnes of mussels a day. They offer 14 different mussels dishes, ranging from raw mussels to mussel stew and mussels au gratin.

Chez Leon's fame spread in Belgium after the 1958 Brussels World Fair. But it was not until 1988 that the restaurant ventured outside the country with its first franchise in Paris.

More restaurants in the French capital quickly followed, including one in the fashionable Champs Elysees.

Eating mussels and French fries in Parisian Leon De Bruxelles, which advertises its Belgian roots unashamedly, is considered chic. Mr.

Vanlancker said.

Belgians are often the butt of French jokes, but there is an obvious appreciation of the country's cuisine, where good food is a way of life.

Mussels are best eaten with one's fingers from a big stew cooked with celery and white wine.

Mr. Vanlancker said he thought restaurant goers liked the novelty as well as the "health" cachet of mussels, which are low in fat and rich in protein and vitamins.

But he said Chez Leon was flexible about customer tastes. In France, the restaurants sell smaller mussels than in Belgium with thin French fries rather than the fat variety favoured in Belgium.

In London the menu will include a large variety of the hundreds of Belgium's beers, popular with British drinkers, as well as tea.

Belgium imports all its

mussels in the season — from mid-July to Easter — from Zeeland in the Netherlands, the world's biggest mussels producer.

This season the region hopes to sell 70,000 tonnes, of which 50 per cent will go to Belgium, and 30 per cent to France.

The rest of the year, mussels are imported from Canada and Denmark, although there is no other industry to rival the Dutch.

Mr. Vanlancker said the restaurant's biggest challenge will be opening in London and, if it is successful, in several other British towns. "If we managed to seduce the Parisians, I don't see why we cannot seduce the Londoners," he said.

Mr. Vanlancker said he had been approached by potential franchisers from Europe, Hungary and Beirut and was studying the potential of opening an outlet on the west coast of the United States.

Uncivilisation

By E. Yaghi

Decide what you want,
decide what you are willing
to exchange for it.
Establish your priorities
and go to work.
H.L. Hunt

Before beginning, in order to avoid the dilemma of mind cramping, it is necessary to define the terms morals and ethics. Such terms are used universally and have much the same meaning within the context of the three great religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, and in many secular societies.

A moral action is one that relates to the principle of right or wrong. Ethics is the discipline of dealing with what is good and bad with moral duty and obligation. A "right" action therefore is one that follows a moral code of ethics and a "wrong" action is one that violates that code.

The philosopher David Hartley believed that man is selfish by nature and thinks more in terms of what will benefit himself and not others. Thomas Hobbes said that there must be some form of authority to control man's behaviour and that a "social contract" would protect man's inherent rights. David Hume stated that the principle of seeking to promote the common good must be accepted as the dominant principle of morality. Being an altruist he felt that a sentiment for and a sympathy with one's fellows was to grieve with the grieving and laugh with those who laugh. He believed moral decisions are grounded upon moral sentiment and that the greater part of morality is a regard for others.

The great philosopher Albert Schweitzer warned about the crisis facing Western civilisation and said that war is a phenomenon of the condition of uncivilisation. He felt that there is a threat of a collapse of civilisation and wondered why there existed such degeneration and what was its nature. It was then he concluded that the reason for this decay and decline of civilisation was due to a lack of spiritualism and an emphasis on materialism. Man has made the conditions of human existence incomparably more favourable in numerous respects but in his enthusiasm over progress and power has arrived at a defective conception of civilisation itself. It is true, that in placing too high a value on material achievements, man no longer keeps in mind the importance of the spiritual element in life. Lack of this element is like a human body without a soul.

It is important that while struggling to advance a country or nation, it should be kept in mind that it is not so important how long it takes a civilisation to get to its goal as long as it is going in the right direction and does not go off course. The issue of any voyage is not how fast is the speed of the vessel, but on whether or not that vessel is going in the right direction and that its steering gear does not get out of control. The essential nature of civilisation does not lie in its material achievements, but in the fact that individuals in its mind the ideals of the perfecting of man and the improvement of the social and political conditions of its people and of mankind as a whole, and that their habit of thought is determined in living and constant fashion by such ideals.

It is quite possible for any developing nation to tend to overlook the detrimental consequences of concentration mainly on material aspects and neglect spiritualism. Thus if any country focuses merely on science and technology and imitates these degenerative aspects of Western civilisation, then that country is as likely to be heading for trouble as any Western one. Does it really matter then how many cars a person owns or which side of town that person lives in? Is it important to dress in a certain manner and then claim that one is civilised? Indeed not, for civilisation is an essence that comes from within which should polish the manners of the beholder as well as make that beholder a seeker of knowledge and advancement in the fields of science and technology while retaining a proper sense of morality, love and concern for one's fellow man. A lonely shepherd faithfully caring for his flock of sheep who has compassion and sympathy for his fellow mankind might be quite possibly more civilised than his more cultured counterpart whose claim in being progressive and advanced lies only in the amount of his material possessions.

When a society or nation retains its spiritualism and a code of ethics with the thought of positive creativity which is beneficial to the progress of humanity (defined in Webster's Dictionary as mankind) then it is on the path of civilisation. Jean-Paul Sartre, a philosopher, novelist, playwright and exponent of Existentialism — a philosophy proclaiming the freedom of the individual human being — defended human dignity and his ethical message stressed the social responsibility of freedom. Sartre was a man who believed in not only writing about his philosophical ideas but his motto became, "commitment is an act, not a word." He practiced what he preached and while a teacher, he refused to wear a tie as if he could shed his social class and thus become closer to the workers.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

★ In 1799, investigators found out documents inside the bowels of a shark and used them to convict an American captain of trading with enemies.

★ On the Rocky Mountains (USA) live types of locusts which get frozen in winter and regain vitality in spring.

★ A worker in Los Angeles never absented himself for a 41-year service in a shop.

★ Letter-Carriers in the ancient kingdom of Inca used to run at an average speed of 17 km per hour to deliver their mail.

★ In 1987, scientists discovered a crocodiles' cave where there were 18 of them; all having white skin and blue eyes.

The co-ed giggled and wriggled. "Oh, stop it!" she cried, "you're tickling me."
"Aw, I can't help it," he said, holding her a little closer. "I'm merely groping for words to tell you how much I love you."

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

RAIN: This is a dream of strange variation in meaning depending on your circumstances and on the character of the rain. A soft spring rain is a lucky omen promising many good things to come, including possible benefits from work done in the forgotten past. If you are struggling or only modestly well off, a heavy downpour predicts a substantial improvement in your circumstances, but if you are one of the affluent society, it signifies a period of reverses. A fine drizzle portends petty difficulties which will soon pass, to be about in an average kind of rainfall indicates the happy demise of an ailing affair, but to be drenched in a blowing rainstorm is an augury of unexpected wealth, likely to be through a legacy.

PUZZLES

Hole Words

(I) Can you tell which three-letter word is missing in each case from the words below?
(a) S.....PER
(b)ERA
(c) BE.....E
(d) EN.....PMENT

(II) Twice a certain number exceeds five-eighths of its half by twenty-seven. What is the number?

(III) If a clock takes 20 seconds to strike 5, how long will it take to strike 10?

PEN PALS

To the Editor:

I have a small correspondence club that I produce here in Tasmania, by the name of Tasmanian Blue Gum and I am currently looking for more overseas people who would be interested in writing and exchanging letters with people in Australia. I have received many letters and would really love to help all these people.

I make no profit from this club — it is solely a hobby, so I write to ask if it would be at all possible to insert a small notice in your publication so that anyone interested could write to me for more details. An International Reply Coupon would be appreciated to enable me to reply but I prefer not to send coupons. As you could appreciate it would be very expensive to reply to everyone otherwise. There always seems to be many people looking for Australian friends and I hope that I am able to help some Australians find overseas friends.

My sincere thanks for any help you are able to give.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Lynne Hoggett
5 McKinlay Street
Midway Point 7171
Tasmania.
(002) 651842.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 19

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

9:10 Documentary — Earth Day Special

A special programme about how to save our planet by cleaning our environment.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — A Mind To Kill

Starring: Hywel Bennett, Philip Madoc

A professor, who is a psychopath, is involved in a series of murders.

Friday, Aug. 20

8:30 Head Of The Class

The Outsider

Janice, the youngest student, throws a party and everybody comes to discover that it is dull. Mr. Moore saves the evening.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Dicky's Got The Blues

10:00 News In English

10:20 The One Game

Nicholas receives a new parcel from Magn which contains a new secret! He has to meet someone in a deserted

place and someone tries to shoot him.

Saturday, Aug. 21

8:30 Wacky World

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — No Where To Hide

Starring: Amy Madigan and Michael Ironside

Major Rob Cutter, a pilot in the Air Force, finds out that the helicopters the air force bought are against the specifications and regulations since two of them crashed.

Sunday, Aug. 22

8:30 Step By Step

Carol, Frank's wife, is jealous because a girl named Amy starts working with him.

9:10 Documentary — The Dream Machine

Inventing The Future

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Mini-Series

Le Gerfauf

In this French historical drama the wicked countess keeps planning conspiracies.

Monday, Aug. 23

8:30 The Golden Girls

In this episode Sofia travels to Sicily, Italy to meet one of her ex-husbands, whom she left a long time ago and caused him many emotional problems.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Pulling Away

Carl the creative director in the company is fired from his job, and Michael takes over his position.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mystery Movie — Columbo

Fade Into Murder

Tuesday, Aug. 24

8:30 People Next Door

Dream Date

Walter and his family move from New York to Ohio. With Walter's wide imagination he finds the truth of something that has worried him so much.

9:00 Local Programme — "Faces And Places"

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

More magical tricks with Wayne Dobson and his friend Bingo the rabbit.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — White Heat

Starring: James Cagney and Virginia Mayo

Wednesday, Aug. 25

8:30 Night Court

The Muggee

In this episode Christine gets robbed by someone and she decides not to defend thieves and murderers any more.

9:10 French Documentary — Notre Siecle

Un Monde Nouveau

This documentary talks about all the inventions that took place between the years 1900-1914 such as aeroplanes, trains etc.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — Shattered Promises

Starring: Treat Williams and Brian Dennehy

Allen, a lawyer, divorces his wife to marry his secretary Dayan after a long love affair, his wife finds out.

Tiana Alexandra — building a bridge to Vietnam

By Paula Sands

HANOVER, USA — The award-winning documentary *From Hollywood To Hanoi*, which has been shown in Europe and on college campuses across the United States, opened in New York City on July 21, mostly through the determined efforts of Tiana Alexandra, 32, the film's writer, director and promoter. "I wanted to build a bridge between America and Vietnam," she explained. "I thought that the misunderstandings, the lack of knowledge of culture has really caused a lot of pain on both sides."

Before turning movie-maker, Alexandra — who left Vietnam with her family in 1966, when she was 4 — was an actress in action movies. She learned martial arts techniques with Bruce Lee and was his only female student.

From Hollywood To Hanoi won Best of Telluride at the Telluride Film Festival and was nominated for best film at the Sundance Film Festival created by actor Robert Redford to spotlight new talents. Alexandra is busy promoting the film, working on its sequel and teaching film to aspiring film-makers at prestigious Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. In an exclusive interview, she discussed how the film has changed her life.

Like so many others, she has her own Vietnam story. "We thought my uncle had been killed by the Communists. We had heard a rumour that he was. I found him in Saigon — in his home." This was Alexandra's first trip back to Vietnam, in January 1988 with friend Oliver Stone to whom movie buffs owe *Platoon*, *Born On The Fourth Of July*, and *JFK*. She has since been back 12 times and Stone encouraged her to do the movie she dreamt of. "I did not go back to make a film. I went to answer so many questions I had in my heart. I had no idea that in this world of communications we could have called up my uncle. He was alive all these years."

Alexandra says that mail does pass between the U.S. and Vietnam, but most people don't think that opportunity is available. "People inside the country don't think they should write to you, either. They can't afford the postage stamp. I interviewed two aunts that I found. In a very moving scene, one wept and said that a stamp cost 5,000 dong, or 50 cents. At the time she couldn't afford it."

"I thought, what is going on? We hear things in America that have nothing to do with reality in Vietnam — and I go to Vietnam and they're wondering why we don't write to them, why they haven't heard from us. Frankly, we thought they

were dead."

Alexandra says even talking of Vietnam conjures up images of the fallen Saigon — of the Americans, of the helicopters taking off, of soldiers hitting people with the butts of their guns, of the Vietnamese being left to fend for themselves in the China Seas. "It is a great national shame, I'm an American now, and I join Americans in guilt and shame — and for a while not wanting to take a look at it. We must now."

Adamantly opposed to the economic trade embargo imposed by the U.S. against Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975, she calls it hypocritical. "It's a shame because any American company that has tentacles all over the world that wants to be in Vietnam is already in Vietnam. Why do we keep it in effect so that people cannot rejoin their families?"

Alexandra also expresses distress at seeing U.S.-Vietnamese relations still soured — after two decades — by the POW-MIA issue. "Every time you think it's going to go away, it comes back and is sensationalised. I think it's a cruel hoax perpetrated on the families in America." She says the issue has become a business for lobby groups that sell bracelets and other trinkets, lobby for money, and raise millions in the name of Rambo. "They don't want that to

die because their income would be depleted... and those poor family members don't want to let go, don't want to face up to the fact that their loved ones are dead and gone forever."

Mainly, though, Alexandra is concerned with family reunification. From Hollywood To Hanoi is about the truth as Alexandra discovered it. "I'm sharing my personal family story as a symbol of what's gone on between America and Vietnam. I think it is important for the world to see the truth."

She has shown the film in France, England, Germany and other countries. "People from Germany come up to me and they weep," she says. "Here at Harvard Film Archives, the curator in charge is Yugoslavian. He feels I made it for Bosnia, for the former Yugoslavs. A woman from Germany felt I made it for people like her. She was 5 when the bombs rained down on Dresden — she said she could never talk about it because that meant she was on the wrong side and it was unpopular to talk about it. She relates to a film that talks about things that are not popular."

Alexandra says the film is entertaining as well as informative, because she personalised it. "After all," she said, "I came to Hollywood. I made action-adventure films.

I'm a martial artist. I'm a music video artist. I go back to Vietnam to find all this. I use clips sharing my personal life that people find entertaining."

"I'm absolutely thrilled that I was able to build this bridge, so to speak." She says that on her first trip to Vietnam she had no intention of filming — until after she spoke to an old woman in the country. "I said to her, 'I didn't realise you have no antibiotics. I will bring some back on my next trip. Is there anything else I can bring?' And she said, 'Please bring materials to build a bridge.'"

Alexandra says she panicked. "I thought, I am not U.S. Steel. I'm not rich. She expects me to bring cement and steel to Vietnam!" Then the old woman broke into a sonnet as Vietnamese do — "They are very poetic. It's a great part of our literature and our national heritage. She said, 'We will build the bridge from Vietnam to the United States. We will cross it together, and we will share a new language.'"

"I just wept and thought, I will help you build the bridge," Alexandra said. She returned to the United States and sold everything she had. "I have been on this journey six years now, finally opening in New York City and doing it myself because I'm not distributed. It has been an uphill battle all the way."

Nevertheless, she says, it has been rewarding to find her family, to share her newfound family with other members of her family in the U.S. to be, as she puts it, "the Pied Piper."

"I am on the cutting edge of people going back to find their loved ones 20 years later," Alexandra said. "How long are we going to wait — until they all die?" When people ask her why now, she tells them: "Now is the time that I'm doing it. That is why now."

Alexandra says she got discouraged only because of money problems. "As an artist and as a film-maker, I never got discouraged in terms of the love and compassion and welcome of the Vietnamese people. I learned so much. I was so amazed at their sense of forgiveness. They are the ones who were bombed and, when Americans come back, they welcome us. They want to take our hand. They want to say, you came back in peace. Welcome."

Many Vietnam veterans who have gone back to Vietnam turn around and dedicate the rest of their lives to doing people-to-people projects, Alexandra said. "I was swept up by that, too."

The lack of humanitarian aid into Vietnam since the end of the war, Alexandra says, is astounding. "People don't realise that no country

has ever survived being bombed like that. In modern history, we've never had a country that's been able to move forward without major help after the end of its war. The U.S. helped to rebuild Germany and Japan. We won't help to rebuild Vietnam, but why won't we lift the embargo so others can go?" Alexandra blames "the old men" and their wanting to punish Vietnam for winning. "If it is any consolation to them, I don't think Vietnam won. I don't think anyone won. I think we all lost. Certainly, Vietnam isn't gloating."

According to Alexandra, only so much can be done without lifting the embargo which essentially blocks any help from international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. "Normalisation will help the bilateral aid going to Vietnam. Now we have this business section wanting to go in to rape and pillage, turning Vietnam from a battlefield to a marketplace, to a tourist centre."

She admits there are many obstacles to be overcome, and she does not want From Hollywood To Hanoi to reopen old wounds. "I'm not bringing it up for anyone to feel bad or to feel guilty. I am bringing it up to remind us... We love to hear stories about how cruel the Communists were, of the boat people —

During one of her many visits to Vietnam, Tiana Alexandra met former North Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong

and then we get tired of it." "We say to the boat people, 'you now have economic freedom, so you're just leaving for economic reasons. We don't want you.'"

"My camera, my 75 hours of film, has told me such an astonishing story that I've changed my whole life to do what I can as one film-maker, one human being to aid the Vietnamese," Alexandra said. "I am from the south. I know that a lot of people in the south still feel that we must punish the Communists forever and that we must not go back because it will help the Communists, but I don't see that the Communists are being hurt by the embargo."

Alexandra says that it is the children of Vietnam, who are dying from malnutrition and other diseases, who are

still suffering from the mistakes of the past. She is also concerned about the Amerasians — children of American servicemen and Vietnamese women. Some come to the U.S. in hopes of finding their fathers, but they receive no help.

"I discovered that the aftermath of war between America and Vietnam got erased from our memory," she explained. "But it is still there, lingering, needing to be resolved beyond POW-MIAs, which are bones."

She describes the MIA issue as one of finding bones, of spending huge amounts of taxpayer money to determine whether "this is a French bone or an American bone or a Vietnamese bone — and if it's a Vietnamese bone, is it a Viet Cong bone? And if it is, then we don't care. How do you draw the line on what's a bone?"

Alexandra has interviewed members of the U.S. Army Intelligence-State Department Task Force who have been going to Vietnam to sift through bones. "Vietnamese women dig and dig and dig at slave labour wages — I have film of this — to find bones that satisfy the American public."

The Vietnamese, she explains, have 300,000 MIAs of their own. Until we hear the voices of these war victims, we will have a limited picture of the situation, she said. "Only then can we come together as the old peasant woman said — only then can we build a bridge together, share a new language, only then can we learn that 70 million Vietnamese don't hate us."

"At Dartmouth College, I ask my film students, what do you think of Vietnam — if you think of it at all? And they say, 'Thank God it's over!' They think of Vietnam as a war! I'm talking about the country."

That, she explains, is really her point. "Hollywood and the media keep perpetuating the Rambo myth of the war. There is no war between America and Vietnam. It's over. It's two decades old. The only war we have here in the U.S. is the one raging inside ourselves; in Vietnam, the only war is a war of poverty." World News Link.

Tiana Alexandra gives a boost to documentaries

HANOVER, U.S.A. — Tiana Alexandra's documentary *From Hollywood To Hanoi* is the story of a Vietnamese exile going home to rediscover herself. The film has received rave reviews in Europe and the U.S. where it opened in New York on July 21 before going to Washington, D.C. Yet, the actress-turned-director did it without the help of the Hollywood film industry.

"I feel the energy that I've been fed in New York from non-fiction film-makers — independent film-makers," Alexandra said. "They can do something for very little. They can pull themselves up by their bootstraps and come up with something. It is very much a guerrilla style — and I'm very attracted to it." Yet, after six years on the road, Alexandra says that it wouldn't hurt to have somebody in Los Angeles make a few phone calls — "and you're distributed" throughout the world.

"They know about me — they know the show," said a frustrated Alexandra. "We've had very successful showings in Los Angeles... It's so encouraging on the one hand; on the other hand, you would think that all this would get me (commercial) distribution."

"What am I doing?" Alexandra lamented. "I'm calling up theatre owners and managers and saying, 'look at these rave reviews. You've got to book me in the theatre.' Instead of a major distributor saying, 'we can make money off of this — the girl knows what she's doing and she's got a good film,' they're saying, 'it's a good film, but these kind of films never make money.'"

"In the book world," Alexandra said, "You can buy a non-fiction book or you can buy a fiction book. There is no discrimination. It's a personal choice. Book distributors and publishers and bookstores don't say, 'don't give me any non-fiction books.'"

"I always grew up watching documentary films. I was frustrated that I could never find them conveniently." She says she never realised that the activity she chose would be viewed as the poor cousin of film-making.

What she wants, Alexandra says, is to pave the way in non-fiction film-making, changing and revolutionising the interests of the industry. "Non-fiction films can make money, and they do not have to be boring. That is a very big challenge for me as a woman multicultural film-maker."

Alexandra says life on the east coast is different from that

on the west coast. "The world that I'm in here is filled with idealistic, humanitarian film-makers. The world I was in is filled with super-energetic ideas that stand on hype — and the goal is to make money and to win, more than it is the humanitarian concerns that I have been dealing with. It is totally different." Yet, she says, because she is from Hollywood, she is also making films that don't preach, yet have a message.

Alexandra says she misses Hollywood in the sense that she would like to push her ideas there. "There's a lot of money and a lot of powerful people there who can, with a phone call, help launch many more of these non-fiction films... There are some hard-thinking, hard-working people in Los Angeles who I think could be made to realise that they don't have to put all these energies into making money."

"I guess that I'm saying that we need to get back to our centre, our roots, our spirituality — whatever it is that people call a third eye, whatever it is that centres us, that makes us feel good," Alexandra said. "I think there are a lot of people making a lot of money in Hollywood who are very dissatisfied with their lives, who need a cause."

Alexandra says she is a firm believer in creating your own destiny and reaching out to people. One staunch friend is film-maker Oliver Stone. "He says, 'go with God.' He writes a check here and there, but the Oliver Stones don't give you the bulk of what you need. You need that from the public." She says she is very encouraged because the public is reacting positively to her work. "If only a distributor would just come to the theatre and see it," she laughed.

"It's always a happening when we show the film," she said. "I showed it in Los Angeles at the American Film Institute in a very commercial theatre at 7 p.m. At 11 p.m., there were 40 of us outside the theatre still talking about it. People want to know. There was an Amerasian boy crying because he recognised some of his friends. He felt guilty that he was here and they were still stuck over there."

"I want to make fiction films again," Alexandra added. "I want to make crossover films with a message. (Black film-maker) Spike Lee did it. Why not a Vietnamese immigrant?" She says it will take her a year of touring with *From Hollywood To Hanoi* and getting the sequel out before she can begin to think of going back to Hollywood.

"I've taken on two major projects," Alexandra said.



Tiana Alexandra's film *From Hollywood To Hanoi* tells a personal story but it also seeks to promote better understanding between the U.S. and Vietnam

"One is my foundation — the Indo-China Film Arts Foundation. The other is what I, as a woman film-maker, an American film-maker, can do to usher in the advent of a new medium... At the end of the day, if you want it, you've got to do it yourself" — World News Link.

The intimate Claude Monet

By Camille Hérisson

"Claude Monet. Une Vie" (Claude Monet, a Life) is the title of a book by Michel de Decker (published by Perrin) in which he groups together accounts by those who knew him and their descendants. It casts a new light on the destiny of the master of Impressionism.

PARIS — Claude-Oscar Monet was born of a family of grocers, in Paris, in 1840, the same year and the same month as Auguste Rodin. These two men were to dominate the world of art. The young boy had a talent for drawing and dreamt of making it his profession. But, in the Monet family, there was profound disdain for artists. So, at the age of 16, Claude fled the family home. In order to live, he started doing caricatures and gained a few customers.

At the age of 18, he met Eugène Boudin who was fond of the sea and the skies of Normandy and he thus became converted to painting. It was a mad passion. He put away his pencils and pens

and bought brushes and canvases, playing with colours and sunlight.

In Paris, Monet blended into the world of painters. He made friends with Bazille, Degas, Sisley, Morisot and Callebote, and Cézanne who acknowledged "Monet, the best of all of us!" He squabbled with his rival Manet. ("Who is this scallywag who so unworthily pastiches my paintings?"), grumbled the painter of Olympia. Monet also had frequent rows with Rodin whose character was as rough as his own.

But Monet's great friend, who was to be for him what La Boétie was for Montaigne, was Georges Clemenceau. This obstinate

man from Vendée, who was a doctor, a journalist, an art critic and the director of newspapers, was to become the president of the Council of State in the gloomy days of 1914-18 and was to lead the country to victory. A deep friendship was to unite the two men till death.

Around the age of thirty, the painter experienced extreme poverty. With his future wife, Camille Doncieux, and their baby, Jean, he lived in an unheated garret. Old Courbet, who admired him, lent him a little money. Renoir, who was hardly better off than him, brought him some bread taken from his family table. When it was no longer possible to pay the rent, the three of them were thrown out. Monet is said to have then attempted to put an end to his life by throwing himself in the river. He met the art-lover, Durand-Ruel in time to arrange matters. The man who had revealed Corot and Delacroix bought his paintings.

Nature is my studio

It meant goodbye to hardship, at least for the time

being. Monet bought a boat, built a cabin on it and sailed on the Seine near Argenteuil, painting. By the age of 40, he had done more than 500 paintings. Michel de Decker describes him as just as easily being full of hope as being dejected and as generous as he could be selfish. Monet was fond of luxury. As soon as he had some money coming in, he would buy the finest wines, have the most beautiful suits made and buy Camille, whom he married in 1870, the most sumptuous dresses.

At that rate, the income from his paintings was quickly used up and the artist was always "broke". Debts piled up. In order to cope, he painted like a maniac, producing one canvas after another and working 11 to 13 hours a day, following the rhythm of the sun. He never closed the blinds so that the first rays of the sun would beckon to him. As soon as he got up, he would eat a grilled "andouillette" sausage, drink a glass of white wine and set to work at his easel. When the sun went down, he would dine and then go to bed. "Once the sun has gone,

what do you expect me to do?"

Maupassant, who, with Zola and Mirabeau, numbered among Monet's faithful friends, saw him at work. "When seeking impressions, he is no longer a painter, but a hunter", he wrote. "He has several paintings on the go at the same time, which he takes, in turn, according to the changes in the sky. He keeps a lookout for the sun or for shadows, for the falling ray of sunlight or the passing cloud, with this brush."

In 1879, Camille died from cancer. Monet could not resist the terrible temptation to paint the face of the dead woman. He tried to justify his action to Clemenceau: "On her cheeks, I followed the changes in hue imposed by death. Shades of blue, of yellow and of grey."

In 1883, Monet moved to Giverny, on the edge of Normandy. He arranged the pink house with its green shutters which, today, receives millions of admirers from all over the world. He planted an ocean of flowers all around it: "The most beautiful garden in the universe", the playwright, Sacha Guitry,

was to exclaim. He turned the neighbouring pond into a fairland of plants with the famous waterlilies that he painted in the "Nymphéas". "Here is my studio!" he exclaimed to his visitors.

At the age of 80, the painter was still hearty and hale. He was rich. His name was famous all over the world, but an insidious disease, attacked his most precious organ: His eyesight. Cataracts blurred his vision. A terrible drama thus began for this lover of light. Soon, he was no longer able to distinguish yellow from white and saw everything as blue. But he remained determined and arranged the colours on his palette in such a way that he could paint from memory: He was aware that he could no longer produce good work and this threw him into fits of rage in which he destroyed his paintings, kicking and punching them.

Deprived of his reason for living Monet quickly grew weak. He died on Dec. 5, 1926, at Giverny, in the arms of Clemenceau who had hurried to come and embrace him a final time — L'Actualité En France.



Claude Monet paints on his 80th birthday in Giverny

Adenoviruses — the keys to gene therapy

By Jean Chabrier

The basic element of tissue, the cell, was indeed discovered a long time ago. But, it took centuries to pierce its mysteries. The most advanced techniques have revealed its incredible complexity and the fantastic way in which cells are organised. Just like Ulysses, who had found the trick of using a wooden horse and thus enabling the Greeks to conquer the fortress, scientists have found a means of entering cells.

PARIS — In the last few months, mankind has witnessed an incredible development. Until now, medical treatment could only be applied globally to organs and systems. It was unable to deal with the roots of the disease, that is to say the cells which behaved in a deficient or abnormal way.

Considerable research has been carried out, over the last ten years, on viruses, which are chemical structures close to life, as it is defined.

An essential fact has been revealed: They only reproduce after entering the cell of which they will become parasites. This led to the idea of using them as vectors or missiles, just like a Trojan horse.

Today, the great possibilities of gene therapy are appearing. This can be briefly resumed as follows. It has been noted that numerous diseases resulted from the disappearance or innate (hereditary) or acquired (pathological) ineffectiveness

of one or several elements of the coding of the metabolic systems or of cell defence. So the lacking or faulty fragment of the genetic material (or "transgene") needed to be transferred into the chromosomes of the cells of the diseased tissues.

The choice of a virus to transport the gene gave rise to a lot of research. Teams of American scientists opted for retroviruses which reproduce at the same rate as the cells, but the limited interest of this choice is that there are many organs and much tissue consisting of quiescent cells which reproduce very little or even do not reproduce at all (liver, lungs, heart, muscles, the nervous system, etc.) and where retroviruses do not enter.

World specialists

As early as 1982, Michel Perricaudet, who is a cancer researcher at the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and the G. Roussy Institute, had suggested using adenoviruses (which have an affinity for lymphoid tissue (glands,

ganglions, etc.), which are able to enter and bring the transgene right into the cells of quiescent tissues. It meant terrific progress, but the important scientists of the time did not believe in it. However, Mr. Perricaudet turned out to be right and now American scientists come to him and to the French teams working with adenoviruses in all areas of gene therapy, for advice.

The construction of a "recombining" adenovirus takes place in two stages. First of all, its reproduction system is blocked so as to prevent its proliferation from killing the cell that it has infected. After that, the "transgene", which is the fragment of genetic material missing in the diseased tissues, is inserted.

Thus manipulated, the adenovirus enters the nucleus of the cells and stays there throughout their lifespan without being transmitted by the offspring cells. "The effect of the transgene lasts all the longer when cell renewal is slower," Mr. Perricaudet points out. "As it is

unable to reproduce itself, there is no risk of its transmitting a disease." He adds: "All kinds of genes likely to have a therapeutic effect can be inserted in it."

These three reasons are enough to explain why the best world specialists have adopted Mr. Perricaudet's discovery.

It goes without saying that, on this basis, terrific progress is being made in research and in discoveries. Publications are being churned out and, without being too optimistic, the results of experiments in vitro and in vivo are most conclusive. All this obviously represents years and years of work and it would take pages and pages to merely draw up a list.

Experiments are also being carried out on man and some of these have been going on since 1986, but both the American and the French governments are extremely cautious and only parsimoniously grant the necessary authorisation. As always, money is also needed, ... a lot of money, and to such an

extent that commercial companies sponsor reputed researchers as the foreseeable repercussions are tremendous.

It is reasonable to think that, by the end of this century, we will have if not, totally victorious weapons, at least some extremely powerful ones against cancer, mucoviscidosis, degenerative diseases of the brain, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, haemophilia and many others including immune deficiency.

For AIDS, which is a typical example of an acquired disease with the gradual disappearance of the body's defence systems, Professor Cherman, who, together with Professor Montagnier, both of them from the Pasteur Institute, discovered HIV, the virus responsible, solemnly declared that, if he were given sufficient staff and money, it would take him less than two years to find an effective vaccine against this dreaded disease. He added that they had to hurry as it is an extremely mutant virus — L'Actualite En France.



The introduction of adenoviruses in the middle of the cells opens the door to gene therapy

Cloth filters wipe out Guinea worm; other bugs succumbing

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — It took 200 years of immunisations to eradicate smallpox. Now doctors are poised to wipe out another scourge, this time armed with mere pieces of cloth to filter fleas from drinking water.

Doctors are confident that Guinea worm, a painful parasite that ravages developing countries, will disappear by 1995, becoming only the second disease ever eradicated.

Polio and measles may not be far behind, they predict.

"Any pathogen that only infects people we can hope to

eliminate," said Dr. Brian Mahy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Africa, India and Pakistan still have about 1 million cases of Guinea worm combined, but a relatively simple eradication fight has cut hundreds of thousands of cases in just three years.

"People are doing it themselves, and it's quick," said Dr. Donald Hopkins of Global 2000, a private health network that former President Jimmy Carter formed here to fight Guinea worm and other diseases.

Guinea worm larvae live in water fleas that taint water in developing countries. When

people ingest the fleas, the larvae incubate for a year. Then a 2-to-3-foot (.6 to-.9-metre) worm the width of a strand of spaghetti grows and bores its way out of the body directly through the skin.

"It really is grotesque," Dr. Hopkins said.

The worm is laden with new larvae that must be laid in water to live.

Two simple things are eradicating Guinea worm: Giving people in infected countries cloths to filter water fleas out of their drinking water, and teaching them to stay on dry land while a worm is emerging.

"It's an unneighbourly act to permit your worm to pol-

lute the community water supply," Dr. Hopkins said. "If she can't get to water, there's no way the cycle can continue."

"It's very exciting for these countries to get rid of this parasite themselves."

The Guinea worm story makes disease eradication seem easy — because of the low technology required and the backing of Mr. Carter, who has helped raise more than \$40 million. He's headed for eastern Africa in August to push the eradication effort.

But disease eradication is a difficult struggle marked by setbacks, doctors say. It took 200 years of vaccinations to

wipe out smallpox in the 1970s.

First, they can hope to eradicate only those diseases unique to people.

"We can deal with anything that doesn't have an animal reservoir or an insect reservoir," Dr. Mahy said. "If there is an animal reservoir, the disease can always make the jump back to humans."

Secondly, diseases get a big boost from people themselves. Take measles: Intense vaccination campaigns in the 1970s slashed measles cases, but then people slackened off. In 1989, a three-year measles epidemic hit the United States, where thousands of unvaccinated people represented easy prey. Worldwide, measles kills 2.5 million people annually.

"We've tried to eradicate

measles before and failed," Dr. Mahy said. "When we don't give it that final push, it comes back to haunt us."

That's why the CDC just called for a \$1 billion global campaign to rid the world of polio by the year 2000. Polio cases have reached a record low, and the paralyzing disease has been eradicated from the Western Hemisphere.

But until the virus is completely wiped out, polio could strike again anywhere, said Dr. Mary Reichler, who specializes in polio at the CDC.

The World Health Organization is vaccinating children worldwide for measles in a similar campaign, although doctors won't give a target date for eliminating that disease. Because it's more prevalent than Guinea

worm or polio, it will take several years longer.

But doctors are pushing their eradication fights with a simple message: Eradication may seem expensive, but in

the long run it will save uncounted lives and billions of dollars in health care and lost productivity.

"We can't afford not to," said Dr. Hopkins.

Facts about Guinea worm

— Nigeria has the most cases — 200,000, down from 650,000 in 1989. Ghana has had the most rapid reduction, from 180,000 cases in 1989 to 33,000 last year.

— The parasite is transmitted in developing countries by drinking contaminated water. Boiling water, treating it chemically or digging clean wells are the best defence, but doctors are fighting it quickly and cheaply by providing cloth filters that screen water fleas from drinking water.

— The parasite grows into a 2-to-3-foot (.6-to-.9-metre) worm that bores its way out through skin, typically in the lower leg. The worm causes an intensely painful allergic reaction if it breaks off in the body before fully emerging, so people wind it around a stick as it slowly emerges.

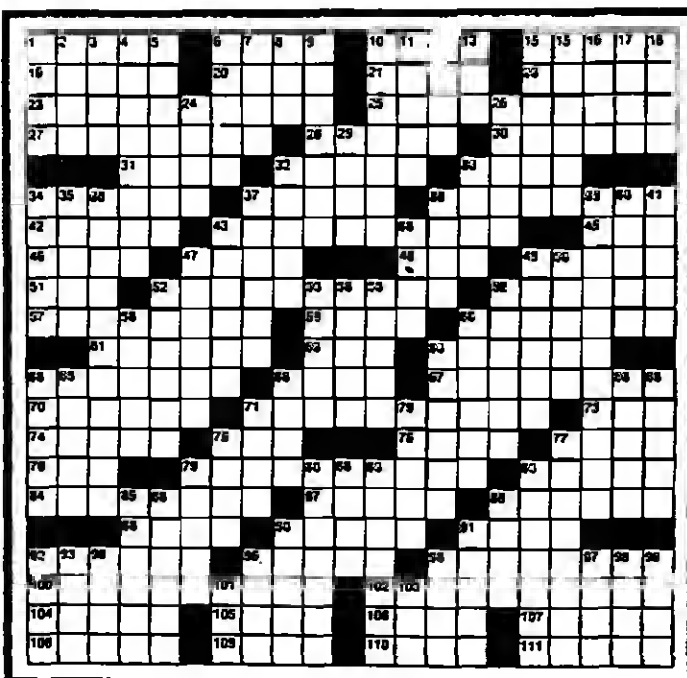
— Guinea worm is one of the world's oldest diseases, dating back to ancient Greece and Egypt. Some historians say Moses was referring to Guinea worm when he discussed fiery serpents on the shore of the Red Sea.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

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By Joel Davajan

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Last Week's Cryptograms

- Maybe it's possible for a gestal little comma to palpably change the basic course of our history.
- Acrimonious discussions concerning monetary matters cease many good marriages to end.
- Delighted by their nonsense, winsome nonsensical bards some noisy here to hide with kids a while.
- Cub scout's chief brought thief to grief.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. AHLEB ABLE FLEO SCRACFO UD BCD
SHRUACKY; ABLD, ABCD CO BCD ABCYE.

—By Frank N. Stein

2. GLYO OLYFCE NUTWJCE YCNRMG GETAC
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JTOOCG, SQL'OO ZCACE KQENTAC

—By Eugene T. Malenka

3. JWHY ASBY ECKK JCHTQH KQEQBQWHD
ESDB ASJOK JECT YWKD JYWTQ

—By Earl Ireland

4. INSILK YKIP NOL YOPYGOR YIPPY
HIPPY KE COHOMLI GINAHOR SLAYER.

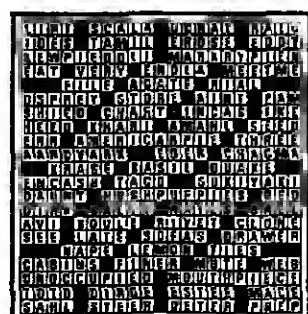
—By Ed Huddleson

Diagramless

21 x 21, By Frances Burton

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Study: Cystic fibrosis drug 'improves quality of life'

By Paul Reccer
The Associated Press

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The first new drug therapy for cystic fibrosis in 30 years has won unanimous approval from a U.S. Food and Drug Administration Advisory Committee.

The drug, Dornase Alfa, was found in a pivotal study to reduce infections and to improve the quality of life for stable cystic fibrosis patients over age 5.

The drug's manufacturer, Genentech Inc., reported that Dornase Alfa reduces lung infections by breaking up the thick mucus accumulation that is the major complication of cystic fibrosis.

Genentech, which conducted the study on more than 900 patients over a six-month period, is applying for a license to market Dornase Alfa under the brand name Pulmozyme.

The committee's approval is not binding on the FDA but the agency usually follows its recommendations.

An FDA team that reviewed the Genentech study told the committee that Dornase Alfa appears to give significant short-term benefit for cystic fibrosis patients.

But the FDA experts are concerned about how the drug could affect patients after years of use.

"It's unknown what effect the long-term use will have on morbidity and mortality," said Dr. Michael J. Sevka, an FDA medical officer.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common lethal inherited disease among Caucasians. It affects about 30,000 Americans and usually first appears in early childhood. There is no cure.

The disease is caused when a baby inherits a flawed gene from each parent. The disorder causes the buildup of dense mucus in the walls of the breathing airway and in the digestive tract. The clogged airways lead to frequent bacterial infections and eventual damage to lung tissue.

Doctors have learned to control the intestinal symptoms with medication, and respiratory failure is now the most common cause of death for cystic fibrosis patients.

"Every child with cystic fibrosis faces a premature death sentence and each faces a quality of life that we would consider unacceptable," said Robert J. Beall, executive vice president for medical affairs of the Cystic

Fibrosis Foundation. He said the life expectancy of cystic fibrosis children was once about five years but that patients now live until about age 29 because of improved treatment techniques.

Mr. Beall said that Dornase Alfa "offers the first new approach to therapy in three decades."

He said that the drug tends to ease breathing and enable patients to be more active and feel better.

"To feel better is something that cystic fibrosis patients dream about," he said. He said the new drug offers "a major weapon in our fight to control" the symptoms of cystic fibrosis.

Dornase Alfa is an enzyme created through genetic engineering by Genentech. The drug acts by dissolving the tangle of matter from dead cells that accumulates in the lungs of patients with chronic lung disease.

Dornase Alfa is inhaled through a device that converts the liquid into an atomized spray.

The study showed that the drug is able to thin and then liquefy the thick mucus that builds up in the airways of cystic fibrosis patients. Once the material is thinned it can be coughed up.

Cystic fibrosis patients now routinely undergo sessions of thumping on their backs in an effort to mechanically loosen

clogs of mucus.

Once the material is out, the lungs are less likely to harbour bacteria that can lead to infections.

The study showed that the risk of infection was reduced by 37 per cent in patients receiving twice-daily doses of Dornase Alfa and by 28 per cent among patients receiving one dose daily.

The study showed a slight reduction in the number of hospital stays by patients taking the drug, a reduction in the need for antibiotics and a reduction in the days spent in bed with an illness.

The study found that the most serious side effect of the drug was a hoarseness that eventually went away. Some patients also reported a rash and a slight swelling of the face.

Some patients in the study developed antibodies against Dornase Alfa, which is a type of enzyme. The eventual effect of these antibodies is uncertain, said Dr. Sevka.

Genentech said it is uncertain when the drug will be available, because its manufacturing facilities are still being built and those facilities must be approved by the FDA.

Published reports said the drug may cost \$10,000 a year per patient, but Greg Baird, a vice president of Genentech, could not confirm the figures.

WHO: World risks new diseases from rats

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — Humanity must prepare for a whole new group of rat-borne diseases, a World Health Organisation (WHO) expert said.

"People have become complacent about rat and rodent associated diseases," Dr. James Leduc told the international congress of Virology in Glasgow.

He cited a newly emerged

disease, which at first affected mostly Navajo Indians and which has baffled doctors in the southwestern United States, as the type of illness that could lie in store.

Dr. Leduc said killing rats in an effort to eradicate these diseases could lead to outbreaks of bubonic plague — the fearsome black death that ravaged Europe.

SOLUTIONS PUZZLES

- HOLE WORDS
The missing word in each case is CAM.
- The number is "16". Check again!
- 45 seconds. There are four pauses between the first and the fifth stroke, therefore each pause must be of 5 seconds. There are nine pauses between the first and the tenth stroke.

The summer when homicide went public

By Mitchell Landsberg
The Associated Press

TWO PEOPLE are killed at a McDonald's and the gunman commits suicide. A woman is shot and killed in a movie theatre. Attackers stalk victims in courthouses, offices, hospitals.

This is the summer that murder went public in America. "There are more and more killings in schools, restaurants, places of business," observed James Alan Fox, dean of the School of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston. "There are relatively few places that are immune."

It may be impossible to say why. It is, in fact, impossible to prove there's been any increase in these crimes at all. No reliable statistics exist concerning the settings in which crimes occur.

It seems possible there is no real trend — that the events this summer are part of a coincidental string of unrelated crimes, or a particularly bad phase in which one psychotic killer encourages another.

But others do think there probably has been an increase in killings in such public venues, and that it may be a sign of some deeper problem in American society.

Murray Straus, a sociologist at the University of New Hampshire, suggests any such increase might be explained by something as simple as the proliferation of multiple-shot weapons. Or, he said, it may be something as complex as "social disorganization," a wholesale shredding of the societal fabric.

"Part of it may be that more people are in a situation of lacking ties to kin, family, neighbourhood, and therefore more vulnerable to going off the deep end," Mr. Straus said.

It's hard to find many common threads in the recent spate of killings except for people "going off the deep end." Consider these news stories over the past two weeks:

— Aug. 5: In Topeka, Kan., a man scheduled to be sentenced for drug dealing storms a federal courthouse with guns and pipe bombs. He shoots and kills a security officer, then kills himself.

— Aug. 6: In Fayetteville, N.C., a man carrying three guns and shouting about gays in the military opens fire in a restaurant, killing four people and wounding seven. The suspect is arrested after being shot in the leg and jaw.

— Aug. 6: In suburban Chicago, a plastic surgeon is shot to death in his office. The suspect, also under investigation for killing a hairdresser in San Francisco in 1987, tells a judge he was angry about people "diluting the aryan beauty" by dyeing their hair blond and wearing blue contact lenses.

— Aug. 9: In Corona, Calif., a woman bursts into a hospital nursery and shoots a worker while shouting, "you took my husband you took my kids prepare to die." The victim survives.



A policeman helps a couple flee an attack in Topeka, Kan. on Aug. 5, 1993.

It is at least the fourth hospital shooting in southern California in the last nine months.

— Aug. 10: In Kenosha, Wis., a 26-year-old man in a jungle fatigues kills two people and then himself at a McDonald's restaurant. In the killer's car, police find a videotape in which he rants about exacting revenge for the wrongs done him by the world. He had just left his job and lost his girlfriend.

— Aug. 10: In Kansas City, Mo., a 15-year-old boy is arrested for allegedly shooting his mother to death in a dark movie theatre just before the start of "Robin Hood: Men in Tights." He is quoted as saying, "I don't know why I did it."

— Aug. 11: In Sonoma, Calif., a jury convicts a woman of manslaughter — rather than murder — four months after she walked across a courtroom and calmly shot the man accused of molesting her son. The shooting made

her a folk hero.

— Aug. 12: In Burlingame, Calif., a man bursts into a real estate office and shoots a real estate broker and wounds another before attempting suicide. Police say the suspect has just been evicted from his home.

Mr. Fox, the northeastern criminologist, sees a deepening societal rage that is bursting out in more and more public ways.

"More and more people are angry, frustrated. Things aren't going their way... and they want to get even," he said.

And violence can beget violence. Both Mr. Fox and Mr. O'Kane said highly publicised crimes can encourage other crimes.

"It kind of puts a bug in their bonnet," Mr. O'Kane said.

The videotape made by the McDonald's killer included remarks expressing admiration for serial killers Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer.

Besieged city resigned to fate

By Michel Moutot
Agence France Presse

SARAJEVO — Residents of this besieged Bosnian capital were fatalistic Tuesday about the receding prospects of NATO air strikes against Serbian forces, now they have pulled back from the strategic Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo.

In the gutted building where the newspaper Oslobođenje is

produced, Chief Editor Kemal Kurspahic was bitter. The people of Sarajevo "felt long ago that the international community abandoned us," he said. "We're now used to broken promises."

The Serbs had contained the threat of bombing by "giving back something they had taken (in order) to do so and avoid air strikes," Mr. Kurspahic explained. "Igman is another excuse for the international community for doing nothing," he added.

The Serbs had learned the lesson that "no-one is going to intervene. People here would have liked it to happen, but they simply try not to allow themselves to expect too much." His colleague Mirko Sagolj said: "I'm writing in all my comments that we can't expect military intervention as long as war doesn't spread out of Bosnia."

Increased activity in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

warplanes on reconnaissance missions over the city in recent days aroused hopes that America was going to shake Europe out of what is perceived here as apathy or even complicity.

"I had high hopes of that new American president," said Suleiman Saban, a 54-year-old Muslim. "Sadly, I no longer believe they will do anything at all. Quite simply, we do not interest them."

Jasmin Abasphahic, 33, runs a car spare parts store. At great expense, he had coloured posters printed, showing the stars and stripes and the Statue of Liberty, with the Bosnian fleur-de-lys replacing the statue's torch.

He has been sticking them up all over town as a sign of gratitude to the United States, "and also as a way of saying we need its help."

He insisted: "Europe has been watching our sufferings without budging, but America with some simple statements and threats has enabled us to avoid being annihilated."

Mr. Abasphahic said he had

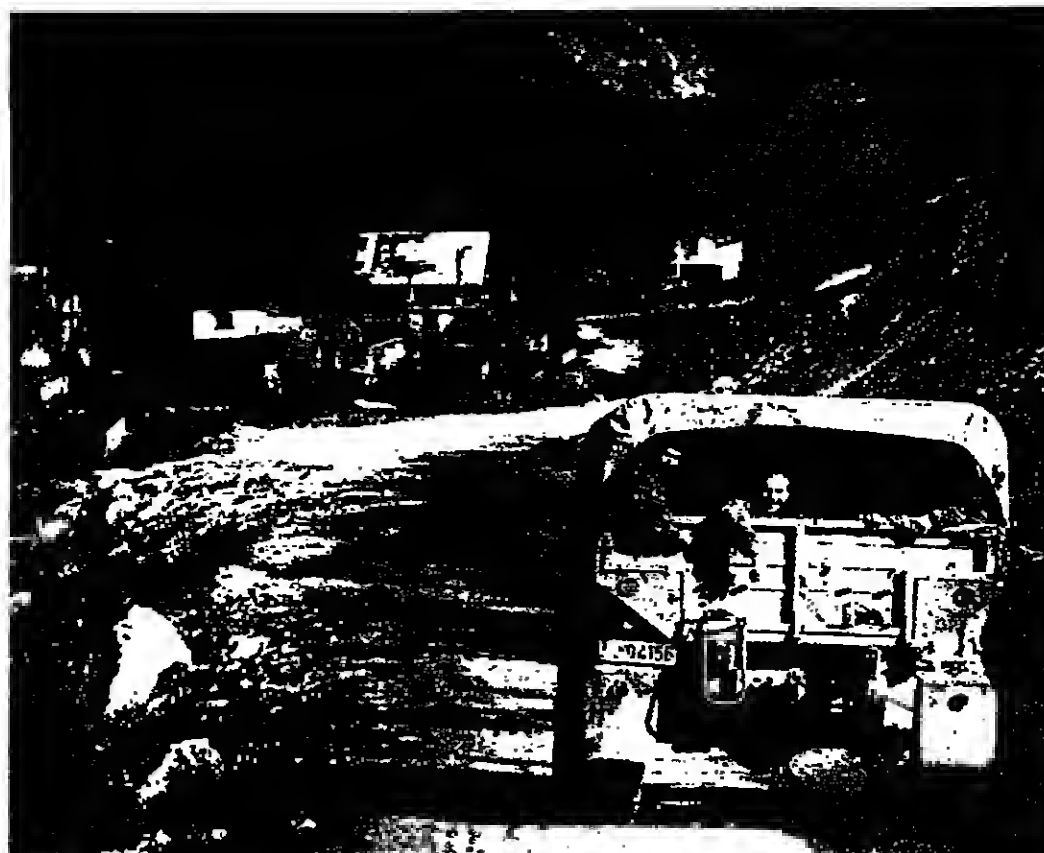
looked forward like everyone else to air strikes, and was now "a bit sad and disappointed," that they had not materialised. "But we must not forget that it is thanks to America that Serbia is being hit by an embargo," he added.

Many residents, wearied by the daily struggle to survive amid the unending queues for scarce water and foraging for wood in the public parks, have become inured to any hopes of outside salvation.

"I never believed it could happen," said Igor Soljan, 21, a Croat. "The U.N. Security Council will always tell the Serbs 'please.' They (Serbs) know very well how to play that game."

Also, Mr. Soljan said, "the United States don't want to help us because too many politicians here believe Islam can be a solution."

Deputy Prime Minister Ejup Ganic said there was "great opposition" from Britain and France to the use of air force. "They want to leave us like this until winter. When people will die, they'll be able to impose any solution," he said.



Bosnian Serb troops on Mount Igman before pulling back from the strategic height overlooking Sarajevo (File photo)

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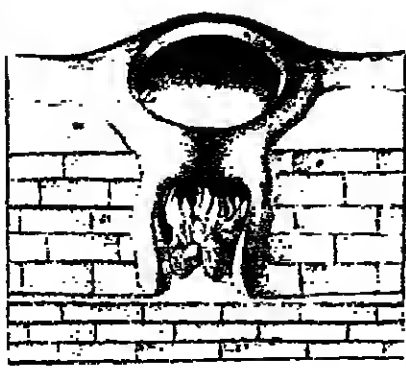
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Japan's car, electronics makers suffer from yen's rise — survey

TOKYO (Ageoecies) — The Japanese car and electronics industries lose a total of 50 billion yen (\$495 million) a year each time the dollar falls one yen, a research institute said Wednesday.

Yamaichi Research Institute of Securities and Economics Inc. said the dollar's fall by one yen would force the top 11 automakers including Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. Ltd. to suffer an additional loss of 29 billion yen.

The institute, a research affiliate of Yamaichi Securities Co., said five major electronics makers — Hitachi Electronics Ltd., Toshiba Corp., Mitsubishi Electric Corp., NEC Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd. — would lose a total 20.5 billion yen.

The institute also said if the dollar fell as low as 100 yen, Pioneer Corp. would suffer a pre-tax loss, and Sony Corp. would fail to report a profit in the year to March.

The dollar's fall to the symbolic level would also halve the previous year's pre-tax profits of the 11 carmakers to as low as three billion yen in the current year.

It said such a decline of the dollar would cause nine major camera makers, including Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd., Comica Co., and Canon Inc., to lose a total of 8.6 billion yen and the top five steelmakers to suffer another two billion yen loss.

Among other sufferers by the yen's rise are construction machinery makers, non-ferrous metal makers, transportation and shipbuilding companies.

The nation's nine electric power companies will gain a total of 17 billion yen in benefits from a one-yen fall of the dollar, while gas companies will enjoy an extra 1.5 billion yen in profits, the institute said.

It also said the dollar's fall to the 100 yen level will provide 132

billion yen in profits for the nine electric companies including Tokyo Electric Power Co. Ltd. and Osaka Electric Power Co. Ltd.

Other gainers included paper and wood chips producers, oil distributors and food producers, it said.

Meanwhile, Japan, wary of trade friction with the United States and Europe, is turning its export machine towards Asia.

Japanese manufacturers are also on the prowl for new markets because they need to restrain shipments of finished goods to the United States and Europe to avoid competing with their own factories there, economists said Wednesday.

In addition Japan hopes to counter moves by U.S. manufacturers into the region and wants to ensure it does not miss out on a booming market, they said.

Fast-growing Asia is greeting Japanese investment with open arms, the economists said. This money allows manufacturers to build factories and outlets that foster more sales of Japanese goods.

"Japanese corporations have found the recipient Asian governments friendly, welcoming their investments," said Takashi Kuchi, senior economist at Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd.

This contrasts with the political reaction in America and Europe to Japan's huge trade surplus, Mr. Kuchi added.

"It is also not beneficial to export to those U.S. and European markets as it might kill off the economic viability of their own plants," he said.

Asia is particularly appealing because its growth potential and similar cultural environment to Japan are less likely to lead to trade friction, economists said.

"The level of protectionism that Japan feels from Europe and America is much less present in Asia," Kenneth Courtis, senior

economist at Deutsche Bank Capital Markets (Asia), said.

Already Japanese trade figures provide evidence of the swing towards Asia.

Finance ministry statistics show that the portion of Japan's exports to Asia has expanded in recent months to 38-40 per cent of overall shipments from an average 34.2 per cent in 1992.

With exports at \$339.76 billion in 1992, a five percentage point increase would translate into about \$17 billion.

This has been at the expense of the industrialised nations, which Japan lists as the United States, Canada, Western Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

The portion of exports to industrialised nations has dropped to about 50 per cent in recent months from 54.4 per cent in 1992.

This trend should continue, economists said.

During the past three months, Japanese exports to nearly all Asian countries have climbed, with shipments to Singapore and the Philippines marking the biggest gains.

Japanese money is also pouring into Asia.

The portion of Japan's overall direct investment in Asia will be more than double this year over 1990, Mr. Courtis said.

But although more exports are headed for Asia, the portion of goods Japan imports from Asia has not changed. Nor has it changed for imports from industrialised countries.

Imports from Asia in 1992 amounted to \$74.36 billion against overall imports of \$232.70 billion. Japan exported goods to Asia worth \$116.10 billion in the same year.

Mr. Kuchi said this reflected growing domestic demand in Asian markets coupled with the sluggish Japanese economy that has inhibited growth in consumer demand.

Coffee prices likely to rise later this year

KAMPALA (R) — A top official of the 25-nation Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) said Tuesday that IACO expected world prices to rise by 25-30 per cent over the next few months from current levels.

The official, who asked not to be named, was speaking after the world's top coffee-growing nations agreed to withhold 20 per cent of their exports in order to push up prices.

The scheme takes effect on the start of the 1993/94 season on Oct. 2.

"The market is currently heavily oversupplied. This has depressed prices," he told Reuters. "But the mere talk of our new arrangement (retention scheme) is already pushing up prices."

He added: "Once the scheme is implemented we expect the market to take notice and push prices up by 25-30 per cent in the medium to long term."

Economic analysts said the scheme wrestled control of the market from big consumers such as the United States, Europe and Japan.

The accord ended four years of fruitless talks between producers and consumers on a new agreement to regulate exports.

A free market currently prevails in coffee, as International Coffee Organisation (ICO) members failed to reach a new pact in July 1989 when producers could not agree on quotas.

A communiqué said producers would meet again in Brazil on Sept. 23-24 to formalise the statute of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries regarding the scheme.

A retention management committee to be made up of all member countries will police and administer the scheme with the help of an international unit of auditors, who will carry out random inspections of stocks, the communiqué said.

Officials at the meeting said the 20 per cent margin would be adjusted periodically depending on market trends.

Experts were still working out the final details.

But growers will deliver their coffee to a specified warehouse, exchanging it for a negotiable warrant.

The beans will be held for a specified minimum period and, when prices improved, gradually released onto the world market in a controlled way to prevent any slump.

"Any country caught cheating can be suspended from the scheme," the communiqué said.

The producers want to force up prices that slumped by 50 per cent when the ICO pact collapsed in 1989.

Excess stocks have been depressing the market. They have doubled to 18-20 million 60-kilogramme bags over the last four years.

Kuwait Investment Authority plans local asset sell-off

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's state investment arm said Tuesday it had sold or restructured ailing parts of its overseas empire and planned to offload holdings in more than 30 Kuwaiti companies to maximise overall returns.

The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), disclosing rare details about its secrecy-shrouded investments, added it held major direct equity stakes in 100 foreign firms, 70 of which it described as Arab and 40 as "overseas", and 50 Kuwaiti firms.

The KIA said it held property portfolios in Australia, the United States, Europe, Asia and many Arab states.

The details were contained in an interview with KIA Managing Director Ali Al Bader by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Sheikh Bader was appointed in April to run KIA, which coordinates state investment bodies including London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) and oversees management of their portfolios.

The KIO has recently been racked by a scandal in its Spanish division that led to alleged losses of \$4 billion. KIA has said it has tightened supervision of the London unit.

A KIA official, elaborating on some of the details contained in the agency report, told Reuters the KIA would start to sell off holdings in more than 30 Kuwaiti

firms listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange to the private sector, probably from next month.

Only nationals of Gulf states may own Kuwaiti shares.

The official said state-owned Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Company (KFTCIC) would set up a fund worth up to 25 million dinars (\$82 million) in which the private sector would be invited to participate.

"We will provide the necessary quantity of shares to the fund without upsetting the market," the KIA official said.

The plan appears in line with privatisation proposals announced last year to sell off the KIA's stakes in 66 local firms and broaden the emirate's domestic investment base. So far the government has sold the KIA's shares in 10 of the firms.

Sheikh Bader reiterated that KIA also planned to restructure domestic assets by way of merger or liquidation.

He cited previously announced plans for an eventual merger of KFTCIC and state-owned Kuwait Investment Company to form an investment bank with 50 million dinars (\$165 million) capital.

The news agency said that in September Kuwaiti and foreign investment experts commissioned by the KIA would start a three-month review of KIA strategy and draw up proposals to be presented to the board around the

end of the year.

"The KIA is reconsidering and scrutinising world assets in line with liquidity and investment diversification commitments," the agency reported Sheikh Bader as saying. It added:

"On the overseas investment losses, Bader said after careful studies such investments were restructured, sold or liquidated to bring losses to the minimum level possible."

Sheikh Bader was quoted as saying losses "were restricted to" direct investments, but KIA investments in bonds and shares on over 20 stock exchanges "are still viable with returns either equal to or over prevailing world market average returns."

Most of Kuwait's overseas assets are in the Reserve Fund for Future Generation, a kind of pension fund for the day the oil runs out next century, and the General Reserve Fund, much of which is believed tied up in relatively illiquid holdings.

KUNA said in June the future generations fund was estimated at \$45 billion at the end of January 1993 and the general reserve was estimated at \$21 billion in June 1992.

Most of the drop from the overseas assets' estimated pre-war value of \$100 billion was caused by payments for Operation Desert Storm and reconstruction following Iraq's occupation.

Australian budget under attack for taxing the poor

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating repudiated Wednesday to widespread criticism of his government's latest budget, declaring it sound in economic terms, sound in social terms and aimed at giving success to middle Australia.

In a round of media interviews to defend the budget, he dismissed charges that low-income earners would be hurt by tax increases on petrol, tobacco and alcohol, saying they would be compensated by tax cuts from Nov. 1.

"We are paying more tax cuts than we are raising revenue," he said.

The budget, delivered Tuesday by Treasurer John Dawkins, had "absolutely" kept faith with the electorate, Mr. Keating said.

It aims to raise 3.6 billion Australian dollars (\$2.4 billion) through increased indirect tax increases, reduced government spending and a crackdown on executive perks.

Mr. Dawkins announced a deficit for the year of 16 billion dollars, corresponding to 3.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), in a strategy to reduce the deficit to one per cent of GDP within four years.

The budget was condemned Wednesday by welfare groups, unions, farmers, students, motor organisations and by most of Australia's newspapers which said it was based on cynicism and would backfire on the Keating government.

One paper, the Australian, said though tough it was, it was not tough enough, nor sufficiently reformist and the electoral backlash from increased indirect taxes could prove terminal for Mr. Keating.

Some government members of parliament said they feared a backlash because the budget would impose bigger increases on unleaded petrol as an environmental measure they believe would fall hardest on the lower-paid — who tend to be labour

supporters — because they drive the oldest cars.

Overseas financial markets decisively rejected the budget, dumping the Australian dollar overnight and leaving the currency Wednesday at a record low of 49.1 points on the trade weighted index after it finished Tuesday at 49.6.

Against the U.S. dollar, the dollar opened here sharply lower, down to 67.24 U.S. cents from 68.07 the previous day, although it firmed later.

However, the Australian stock market responded favourably, shrugging off increased sales taxes and pushing towards the key 1,900 point by noon, buoyed by strong overseas interest.

"Overseas buyers' main concerns were the budget deficit and the government has shown it will deal with it," said a Prudential-Bache broker.

Mr. Keating said he had one of the lowest-spending governments in the world in the lowest taxed country in the Western world and

the government had cut spending enough to satisfy the finance markets.

Even with the tax increases on fuel, Australia would still have one of the lowest petrol prices in the world, he said.

To critics arguing he had not done enough to address chronic unemployment, he said labour market programmes expanded in the budget would help about 500,000 jobless people.

But the key to unemployment was economic growth, he said. "As that growth picks up, then the prospects for employment will, of course, be better and the economy is now growing."

Mr. Keating said over the past decade, labour had focused most tax cuts on the lower-paid.

"The key to this budget is to give the people who have not had that kind of success in budget rounds in the past, and that's middle Australia between 20,000 dollars and 50,000," Mr. Keating said.

Canon profit tumbles 61%

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's top cameramaker Canon Inc. has said its pre-tax earnings tumbled 61 per cent from a year earlier to 15.5 billion yen (\$146 million) in the six months to June.

The company, which is also a leading manufacturer of office equipment including copiers, said sales fell three per cent to 494 billion yen.

Depending on exports for some 80 per cent of its sales, Canon said it was adversely affected by the stronger yen during the first half although it was making efforts to adapt to the new "era" of a dollar being worth only 100 yen.

Exports dropped two per cent to 388 billion yen while domestic sales were down five per cent at 106 billion yen, the company said.

Canon's overall sales of office equipment climbed two per cent to 414 billion yen, supported by increased revenue from computer peripherals which leapt 14 per cent to 205 billion yen.

But copier sales fell four per cent to 155 billion yen while sales of data, communications and systems equipment tumbled 17 per cent to 54 billion yen.

Camera sales plunged 25 per cent to 38 billion yen while sales of optical equipment and other items edged down four per cent to 21 billion yen.

Canon left its forecast for the full year unchanged, projecting pre-tax earnings of 38 billion yen on sales of 1,060 billion yen.

India's central bank chief says economy is at turning point

BOMBAY (R) — Indian central bank chief Chakravarty Rangarajan has said the economy had reached a crucial turning point as it entered the third year of a bold reforms programme, but it needed more financial aid.

Mr. Rangarajan, governor of the Reserve Bank of India, told Reuters the additional funds would repay loans from the international monetary fund (IMF) and borrowings made through a bonds issue.

"Exceptional financing would be required until access to commercial markets opens up," he said.

"As the fundamentals of the Indian economy improve and the foreign exchange reserves remain at a reasonable level, it should be possible to access the commercial market," he said.

Finance ministry officials say the government is considering approaching the IMF for a new medium-term loan of \$2-\$3 billion.

Faced with a mounting foreign debt of about \$74 billion, India approached the IMF in 1991 for a loan and has since received about \$4.0 billion under a standby credit facility.

As part of its IMF commitments, India initiated reforms, lifting licensing in most industries, fully floating the rupee and allowing majority foreign equity in Indian ventures.

Mr. Rangarajan said India had successfully carried out two years of macro-economic stabilisation and structural reform.

"A noticeable improvement in the overall economic situation was seen during 1992/93," he said.

India posted a GDP (gross domestic product) growth of 4.2 per cent in 1992/93, up from the previous year's 1.2 per cent.

Mr. Rangarajan said GDP growth in 1993/94 would again heavily depend on agriculture, which in turn depended on the monsoons. He forecast the current monsoon would be as good

as last year's and said it raised hopes of expanding the farm sector in 1993/94.

"The prospects of a 6.0 per cent rate of growth in agriculture in 1993/94 therefore appear realisable," he added.

The pick-up in agriculture would help industry and spur demand for industrial consumer goods, Mr. Rangarajan added.

Pai Panandiker, economist and former secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said, however, that it would be more realistic to estimate the rate of agricultural growth at around four per cent in 1993/94.

"The agricultural growth, even at four per cent, can stabilise prices and stimulate good demand for industrial goods," Mr. Panandiker said.

Mr. Rangarajan said inflation had fallen to 7.0 per cent from last year's 13.6, but insisted monetary and credit policies will still aim to control inflation and promote production.

"More foreigners will be needed in the plantation and construction sectors," Ng Teck, the department's deputy director-general told Reuters.

"Locals shun work in plantations and construction because of poor working conditions and the vast opportunities available in other sectors such as manufacturing," Mr. Ng said.

He said reported vacancies, mostly in the manufacturing sector, grew by more than 50 per cent between January and May 1993 to 46,246 while 39,959 job-seekers registered with the Man-

Malaysia's jobless rate plunges to record low

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's dependence on foreign labour is likely to expand after the booming country's unemployment rate hit a record low in early 1993, the manpower department said.

Malaysia's unemployment rate fell to 3.3 per cent in the first five months of 1993 compared to 3.9 per cent for the whole of 1992, the Manpower Department said in a report.

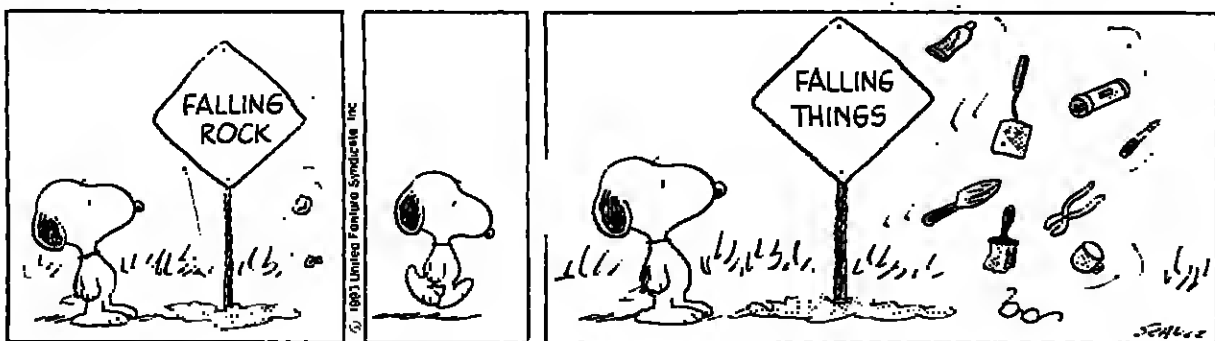
"More foreigners will be needed in the plantation and construction sectors," Ng Teck, the department's deputy director-general told Reuters.

power Department for employment.

Mr. Ng said job vacancies in the manufacturing sector, which has fuelled economic growth to around eight per cent the last five years, were mainly due to the opening of new projects that have been approved over the last three years.

Malaysia has more than 300,000 foreigners working in its plantations and construction sector mostly from Indonesia, but also from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



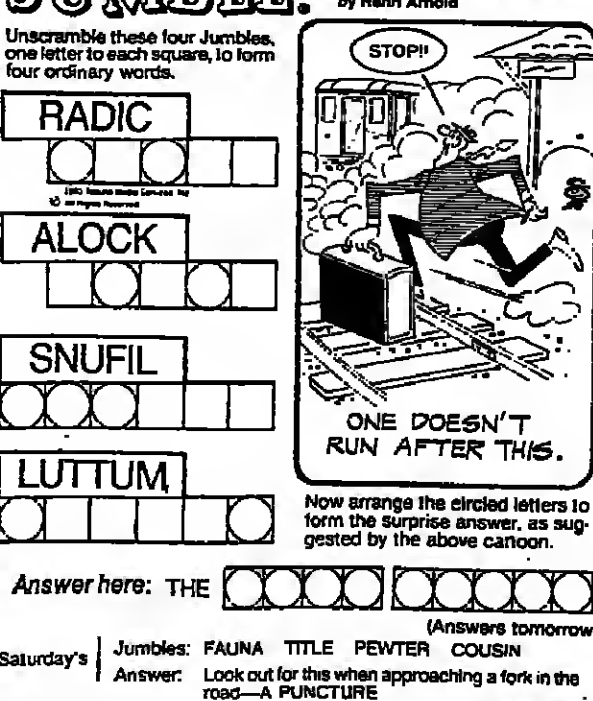
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.



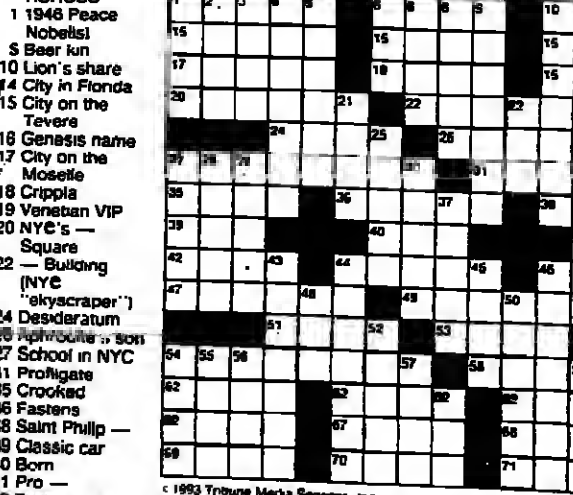
JUMBLE.



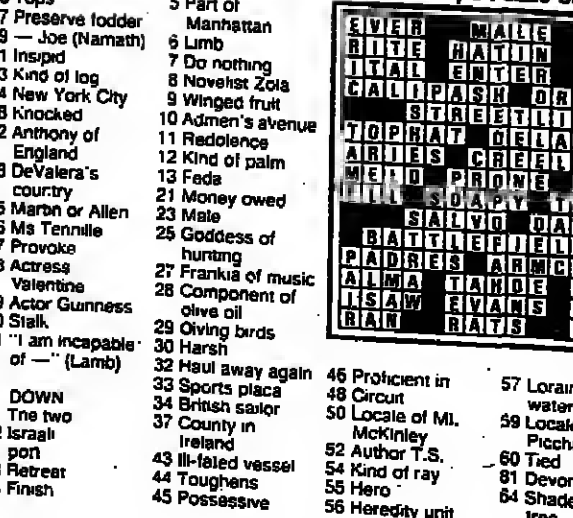
Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword

by Wilson McBeath



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Qudah blames customs practices for problems at free zones

Aqaba coast to be turned into free zone, chief says, but political decision is needed

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Free Zones Corporation (FZC) Director-General Falaq Qudah admitted Tuesday that industrial establishments in Jordan's free zones were dissatisfied and suffering from much interference by customs officials.

Dr. Qudah said "the customs mentality" was still dominant and was negatively affecting various operations at the free zones but, he pointed out, that was because of lack of specific guidelines needed to regulate the relationship between the customs department and the corporation.

Another negative aspect which has troubled the industrialists was the problem of obtaining a certificate of origin for their products, Dr. Qudah said.

He, however, assured an audience of businessmen he was addressing Tuesday upon an invitation from the Jordanian Exporters' Association that these obstacles would be cleared in the coming few months.

He explained that new and very clear regulations were being prepared whereby the functions of customs officials would be sharply curtailed and limited to give the free zones the liberty enjoyed at any other free zone in the world.

The "certificate of origin" problem would be resolved by granting a product with a minimum 40 per cent value added input a

Jordanian certificate of origin. Products with less than 40 per cent value added input would be marked "Product of the Zafra Free Zone-Jordan," Dr. Qudah explained.

The FZC chief said that despite the complexities which have frightened some people and caused a few to pull out or cancel their operations at the free zones during the past years, the corporation has received a large number of requests during the first half of this year.

He said that so far this year the corporation has received 11 applications to set up projects, as many as the FZC had received during the past 10 years. The 11 new requested establishments would bring the total industrial projects to 36 although the FZC had envisioned as many as a hundred firms entering the Zafra Free Zone when it was set up in 1993.

Dr. Qudah attributed the rush this year to investors who had been anticipating better economic and political climate and who had been adopting a wait-and-see attitude for a while and realised that the time was now ripe to embark on their projects. He noted that most of the investors were returnees from Arab Gulf countries.

The corporation has recently approved regulations which allowed the private sector to establish free zones on condition that the applicant be a shareholder

ing company with a JSD million capital and that the area of the zone be at least 200 dunams.

"An industrial establishment whose products are mainly for export but has its location outside the free zones can also apply for status from the corporation and in this respect would be given the name Free Zone Point with all

the privileges," Dr. Qudah said. The FZC plans to set up a 10-dunum free zone near the Queen Alia International Airport to serve the air transport industry and a 10-dunum free zone near the Zafra Industrial City to serve the industrial sector for raw materials.

Dr. Qudah revealed that a committee from various ministries and in conjunction with ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) has prepared a report recommending that a 60,000 dunum on Aqaba's southern coast be declared a fully-fledged commercial, industrial and touristic free zone.

Such a step, he said, would be the first which, if it proves successful, would be followed by declaring the whole of Aqaba a free zone area.

However, Dr. Qudah was quick to stress that the ultimate decision rests more with political more than economic considerations. He did not elaborate.

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Note: The organisation reserves the right not to consider any offer if below current local market prices.

Financial Jordan Times

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 17/8/93	Tokyo Close 18/8/93
Sterling Pound	1.4380	1.4904
Deutsche Mark	1.6028	1.6925
Swiss Franc	1.5024	1.5030
French Franc	5.9425	5.9398**
Japanese Yen	101.05	101.47
European Currency Unit	1.1260	1.1281**

1 unit per 100
European Opening at 8:00 AM GMT

Extracurrency Interest Rates... Date: 18/8/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.15	3.31	3.59
Sterling Pound	5.67	5.75	5.56	5.43
Deutsche Mark	6.68	6.43	6.31	5.93
Swiss Franc	4.56	4.66	4.50	4.31
French Franc	6.87	7.75	6.87	6.00
Japanese Yen	5.87	5.81	5.81	5.81
European Currency Unit	6.43	7.56	7.00	6.44

Interest rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 L.L. or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 18/8/1993

Metal	USD/oz	JD/10g	Metal	USD/oz	JD/10g
Gold	375.10	7.30	Silver	4.73	0.105

21 karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 18/8/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.0294	1.0345
Deutsche Mark	0.4084	0.4104
Swiss Franc	0.4602	0.4625
French Franc	0.1160	0.1166
Japanese Yen	0.6814	0.6848
Dutch Guilder	0.3628	0.3646
Swedish Krona	0.0863	0.0867
Italian Lira	0.0431	0.0433
Belgian Franc	0.01438	0.01448

Other Currencies Date: 18/8/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8130	1.8430
Lebanese Lira	0.03899	0.04050
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1861
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3200
Qatari Riyal	0.1875	0.1892
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7646	1.8210
Y.A.E. Dirham	0.1875	0.1892
Greek Drachma	0.2850	0.3375
Cypriot Pound	1.3275	1.3600

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.4930/40	U.S. dollar	1.4930/40
One U.S. dollar	1.3200/10	Canadian dollar	1.3200/10
	1.6920/30	Deutschemarks	1.6920/30
	1.9015/25	Dutch guilders	1.9015/25
	1.5010/20	Swiss francs	1.5010/20
	35.58/68	Belgian francs	35.58/68
	5.9230/30	French francs	5.9230/30
	1598.09/5	Italian lire	1598.09/5
	101.40/50	Japanese yen	101.40/50
	7.9600/80	Swedish crowns	7.9600/80
	7.3350/55	Norwegian crowns	7.3350/55
	6.9300/50	Danish crowns	6.9300/50
One ounce of gold	372.60/373.10	U.S. dollars	372.60/373.10

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Cambodia widens offensive against Khmer

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The Cambodian army widened its offensive against the Khmer Rouge in the northwest Wednesday and captured part of the most strategic target of the civil war — the guerrilla's "second headquarters" near the Thai border.

Phum Chat, the main logistics and supply base for the Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces in the northwest region, was attacked and partially occupied by government forces in a pre-dawn raid that included the Khmer Rouge's former partners in the civil war, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), which previously had acted as part of the front for the Khmer Rouge to receive foreign aid during the 13-year civil war, participated in the attack against their old allies, he said.

The government is in the middle of a large-scale offensive to drive the guerrillas back to the Thai border and put a stranglehold on their supply lines to the centre of the country.

"The Khmer Rouge are not like before, they are very weak," a Cambodian general told AFP.

"When we send in just a small group of soldiers, they just run away and don't fight heavily," he said, calling the offensive a "huge success."

He said Cambodian troops had the capability to capture the Khmer Rouge's primary head-

quarters in western Pailio "tomorrow," but had no immediate plans to extend the offensive there.

Fighting in Phum Chat continued into the morning, but the weapons used and casualty figures were not immediately known.

Unconfirmed reports cite several casualties on the part of the NADK, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, or Khmer Rouge, Mr. Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge's second-in-command, Ieng Sary, has been spotted in Phum Chat, according to U.N. officials interviewed there in May, and Cambodian sources said the notorious commander General Ta Mok has been seen in the area.

It was unclear if either of these two men were targets of the attack.

The town, on the edge of the border with Thailand, is divided by a reservoir, with a village on one side and a Khmer Rouge military logistics base and munitions storage area on the other.

Mr. Falt said it was unclear which part of Phum Chat, either the munitions stores or the village, had been occupied by the Cambodian army.

Meanwhile, U.N. military observers in northwest Siem Reap — where the offensive started on Aug. 11 — said the Cambodian forces had captured the mountain of Kulen in fighting with the

Khmer Rouge. Kulen offers a vantage point for the whole of eastern Siem Reap province.

"I think their goal is to cut off the NADK supply network," one U.N. observer in the province said.

Cutting off the supply network in that district, called Svay Leu, would choke off guerrilla forces in Kompong Thom and eastern Kompong Cham.

"Most of the NADK, because they're guerrillas, have fallen back," he said. "Their intention is not to hold ground."

In fighting in Kompong Thom on Aug. 8, the Cambodian army pushed back the guerrillas at least 50 kilometres (30 miles) to recapture lost territory.

Heavy fighting there reportedly displaced 5,000 people, a diplomatic source said.

The weakened Khmer Rouge requested urgent talks with the Cambodian government Tuesday and agreed to make concessions, but the government said it is too busy to meet with them.

"The Khmer Rouge told me that they would like to join the Cambodian united army with no pre-conditions," Deputy Information Minister Ek Sereyvatth said.

However, he said, the talks requested by the faction could not be held on Aug. 22 to 25, because the Cambodian co-premiers were scheduled to make an official visit to Vietnam.

Azeris bomb town in Armenia, kill 7

YEREVAN (AFP) — Two Azerbaijani aircraft Wednesday bombed the southeastern Armenian town of Gapan, killing seven people and injuring about 30, the Armenian News Agency, Snark, reported.

The agency, quoting an Armenian Defence Ministry statement, said two Sukhoi-25 fighter-bombers carried out the attack around 7:00 a.m. (0300 GMT), in apparent retaliation for a continuing Armenian offensive on the strategic Azeri town of Fizuli, southwest of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Gapan is an industrial town located just inside the Armenian border about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-majority enclave which has been fighting for independence from Azerbaijan since 1988 in a war that has left some 10,000 dead.

The reported bombing came as Armenian forces, defying international condemnation, pursued their offensive against Fizuli, leaving hundreds of casualties and tens of thousands of refugees fleeing the region, according to Azeri authorities.

Armenian military officials in the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh said late Tuesday that their troops had taken control of the main road between Fizuli and Dzhebrail, further southwest, while leaving an open corridor east of Fizuli for those who want to flee the region toward eastern Azerbaijan.

Serjan Oganian, the Armenian military chief of staff in Nagorno-Karabakh, confirmed that his forces "control all the heights around (Fizuli), which is practically surrounded," but he denied that his forces had entered the city.

The offensive, which follows recent Armenian gains west and north of Nagorno-Karabakh, was apparently aimed at creating a security belt around the enclave.

The offensive has drawn strong condemnation from neighbouring Turkey and Iran, both strong Azerbaijan allies, while the United Nations had already called on the Armenian forces to end operations inside Azerbaijan.

In Baku, Azerbaijan's acting president, Geidar Aliyev, called on the United Nations to take "effective action" to halt the Armenian offensive, the Moscow-based ITAR-TASS News Agency reported Wednesday.

In a letter sent to U.N. Secretary General Butros Ghali and the president of the Security Council, Mr. Aliyev said Armenia had ignored earlier U.N. calls to end the fighting and so more concrete measures were needed, the agency said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was in Baku Wednesday for talks with Mr. Aliyev on the situation and the possibility of thousands of Azeris fleeing the fighting into Iran.

On Tuesday Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller warned Armenia to "change its attitude" or stand ready to "suffer the consequences."

The capture of Fizuli and Dzhebrail would give Armenian forces control of a line stretching south from Karabakh to the Iranian border and would isolate a large sector of southwest Azerbaijan, inhabited by more than 250,000 people.

Russia's special envoy to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Vladimir Kazimirov, Tuesday urged the prompt implementation of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) plan.



Russian Border Guards display some of the arms captured from Afghan troops during clashes near the border of Tajikistan (AFP photo)

Tajik troops seize 7 rebel held villages

DAST-I-SHER, Tajikistan (R) — Government forces in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan have seized seven southern villages from Islamic rebels after months of sporadic fighting, securing a strategically crucial border area.

Foreign diplomats said Wednesday that the capture of what was one of the last rebel strongholds had made the government less vulnerable to attacks.

Dast-i-Sher is one of the villages cleared of rebels over the last two weeks in the Darvaz area of southern Tajikistan, on the border with Afghanistan.

Journalists who visited the settlement Monday were the first to independently confirm earlier government claims that the villages had been wrested from rebel hands.

Darvaz, which straddles the only road from the south to the Tajik capital Dushanbe, is a key

to the security of the border.

"Darvaz is seen as the most vulnerable gateway for rebel attacks on Tajik territory from Afghanistan," said one foreign diplomat. "Now that gateway is secure."

Thousands were killed in a near civil war last year before ex-Communist forces prevailed over a loose coalition of self-styled Democrats and Islamists. Many of the Islamists fled to Afghanistan.

FBI on the trail of bra thieves

NEW YORK (AP) — New York, already known for its sordid and assorted crime, can now add yet another: The theft of 46,800 bras from Kennedy International Airport. According to court documents filed in U.S. district court in Brooklyn, the underwear heist occurred last August at the Queens facility, where it arrived in late July 1992. Hijackers stashed a truck driver and made off with 390 cartons filled with bras, the papers said. The lingerie from the Philippines was shipped for sale exclusively at K-Mart, the papers said. It instead turned up in stores throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx, where FBI agents purchased the stolen bras, the papers said. A search warrant was subsequently issued and authorities seized nearly 2,700 of the stolen bras from the locations, the papers said. FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette declined to comment on the probe, which has so far produced no arrests.

German wartime sub to be raised from Danish waters

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Salvagers have begun work on raising the German submarine U-534, which was sunk in Danish waters on May 5, 1945, from the seabed, and expect to complete their operation by the weekend, officials said. A 97-metre crane is being used to lift of the 1,200-tonne wartime sub, which for 48 years had been lying on the bottom of the 62-metre deep Kattegat (the Danish waters separating Denmark and Sweden). On Monday, the U-534 was raised 36 metres and will in the next phase be transported to a sandbank. With a remote control camera, crew could see that the hull was still in one piece, with paint markings remaining. The final lift from the sandbank, at 24 metres, will likely take place on the weekend, when the sub will be placed on a barge.

More women than men file for divorce in Korea

SEOUL (AP) — More Korean women than men filed for divorce last year, continuing a trend that started in 1985 and reflecting the improved status of women, according to statistics. The main reason given for seeking divorce was infidelity, said the supreme court. Of 21,699 people who filed for divorce in 1992, men accounted for 9,718, or 44.8 per cent, and women for 11,981, or 55.2 per cent, the records showed. Divorce is still frowned upon in Korea's male-dominated society and women who leave their husbands have little assurance they can receive either funds or custody of the children.

Planes grounded while students take exam

SEOUL (AP) — For 37 minutes Friday, airplanes won't be allowed to land or take off anywhere in South Korea. It's part of efforts to let students take highly competitive college entrance examinations in silence. Any jet fighters in the air will be kept above 2,000 metres (7,000 feet) to help assure quiet, the Defence Ministry said. The 37 minutes cover the time when the students will be listening to oral portions of Korean and English-language tests. In all, the examinations last eight hours, split into morning and afternoon sessions. The Transportation Ministry also said Tuesday that to help students reach the test sites on time, the number of buses and subway trains in Seoul will be increased during the morning rush hour. Meanwhile, government employees are to start work an hour later than usual to reduce traffic congestion.

Tourists attacked during cave visit

MOSCOW (AFP) — Three masked, armed robbers fled a group of tourists visiting a prehistoric cave near the Black Sea coastal town of Adler, Tuesday, the daily Izvestia reported. The robbers took money and personal belongings worth up to 800,000 rubles (\$300) before making their getaway in the direction of the troubled Georgian separatist region of Abkhazia, according to some sources.

Argentina bans Mexican holy water

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina banned imports of Mexican holy water, saying it could cause cholera, the Argentine News Agency Telam reported. It quoted Health Under-Secretary Julio Calcano as saying the government had decided to clamp down on the trade in jugs of supposedly curative holy water from the Mexican town of Queretaro. He said Mexico has a high incidence of cholera, a potentially deadly disease caused by bacteria that thrive in untreated water.

U.N.: Some Serbs stay on Igman

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers said Wednesday that some Bosnian Serb forces were still on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo despite a pledge to withdraw, but said they posed no threat to the city.

The main body of Serb forces withdrew as promised last weekend, but a few remained, United Nations military spokesman Barry Frewer told a news briefing in Sarajevo.

Meanwhile, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Peter Kessler said conditions for people living in Bosnia's second city Mostar in the southwest were probably worse than those of people in Sarajevo. Fighting around Mostar was reported Tuesday.

trapped in the old town to the east of the Neretva River.

"The situation in Mostar is probably worse than that in Sarajevo or Srebrenica to the east," Mr. Kessler said.

"There are tens of thousands of people known to be living in the shelled out quarter in the east side of the town."

Muslim-controlled Bosnia radio said Tuesday that Croatian Air Force jets had bombed the city's eastern quarter.

Croatian Radio said the fiercest fighting had moved Tuesday night to the south of the city, where Muslims had tried to recapture positions lost to Croat forces in the last few days. But the Croats had repelled the attacks, it said.

The Bosnian U.N. ambassador Mohammad Sacirbey said comments by Gen. Hayes had been "incoherent, sometimes total falsehoods, and insulting."

Mr. Sacirbey felt he took exception to Gen. Hayes' remark that the Serbs had shown good faith by withdrawing from Mount Igman and his accusations that Muslims were responsible for blocking humanitarian relief into Sarajevo.

In Geneva, Mr. Izetbegovic met the Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban Wednesday morning to discuss which republics would get disputed areas under a proposed three-part Bosnian union.

Bosnian faction leaders wrestled over a plan to turn Sarajevo into a U.N.-run city, but President Izetbegovic demanded Serbs first end a 16-month siege of the capital.

U.N. officials in Bosnia came under fire from the United States and Bosnia's Muslim ambassador to the U.N. reported remarks about the potential use of air power.

The U.N. troop commander, Lieutenant-General Francis Briquemont, and his chief of staff Brigadier Vere Hayes were quoted by the New York Times as questioning the value of the air strikes, which were proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"What does President Clinton think he is up to? Air power won't defeat the Serbs," the newspaper quoted Gen. Hayes as saying.

Gen. Briquemont was reported to have spoken dismissively of air strikes, saying: "It was a NATO warning, so it's a problem for NATO... but NATO is not the U.N."

The U.S. envoy to the U.N. Madeleine Albright called the reported remarks "unconscionable."

In what diplomats said could mark progress amid general gloom, officials said the presidents of Croatia and Serbia, Franjo Tudjman and Slobodan Milosevic, had been asked to the Geneva talks on dividing Bosnia into three ethnic mini-states.

The diplomats said they would come Thursday to boost the negotiations which Mr. Izetbegovic, Mr. Boban and Serb leader Radovan Karadzic say are crawling along.

Mediator Lord Owen warned all three sides not to drag out the talks as humanitarian efforts to protect people against the coming winter were already falling behind.

"It is very difficult to cope with both war and winter. In my view we will not cope, and that's one reason there is an urgency behind the peace process," he told reporters.

U.K. minister plays down jibe by Norway counterpart

LONDON (Agencies) — British Environment Minister John Gummer dismissed Tuesday a forthright attack by his Norwegian counterpart, who described him as "the biggest shitbag I've ever known."

Thorbjorn Berntsen made his comments Monday during an election campaign debate in Grimstad, 180 kilometres (110 miles) southwest of Oslo, referring to talks he had with Mr. Gummer in New York earlier in the year.

But Mr. Gummer dismissed Mr. Berntsen's outburst, saying: "I don't think the comments of people in an election campaign, when they aren't willing to defend the world's largest sea mammal, are worth making much about."

"I am sorry he felt the need to speak like this," he said, adding: "I am not going to reply to people who use this sort of language."

Mr. Berntsen, whose election rally comments were printed Tuesday in the Agerposten local newspaper, said he made his judgement of Mr. Gummer after the New York talks on the environment.

"I informed him of all the problems that acid rain is creating for Norway, and pointed out that most of this acid rain comes from dumping in England. During these talks, he was insolent towards Norway and the Norwegian government," he said.

But Mr. Gummer countered: "The whole issue is about whales. I think in an election campaign he recognises how isolated Norway is on the subject of whales. The Norwegian environment minister clearly feels very exposed and isolated," on the issue, he said.

Mr. Berntsen confirmed the remarks to Norway's national news agency (NTB) Tuesday. The Norwegian for "shitbag" is "drittskakk," and is widely used in Norway.

"I could probably have said the same using somewhat different words, but I usually say things directly so that people understand what I mean," Mr. Berntsen told NTB.

Mr. Gummer has criticised Norway in the past for its decision to resume commercial whaling in 1993 despite an international moratorium.

Mr. Berntsen later told Norway's national television NRK that his choice of words had not been completely ideal.

"The expression was not appropriate for a minister," Mr. Berntsen said, but stopped short of making an apology.

"I am mighty angry with him (Gummer)," Mr. Berntsen said. National radio also played a tape from the election rally on Monday night where Mr. Berntsen's statement about Mr. Gummer caused roars of laughter from the audience.

Belfast city centre hit by car bomb

BELFAST (Agencies) — An overnight car bomb explosion in the city centre here wrecked a snack bar and smashed shop windows, Northern Ireland Police said Wednesday.

Four people cleaning restaurants in the area had to be treated for shock. The car had been stolen hours earlier in a Catholic district of West Belfast.

The explosion gutted a snack bar and damaged several stores and restaurants as well as the headquarters for the powerful Orange Order, a Masonic-like grouping of Protestant clubs, authorities said.

They said the bomb weighed about 70 kilograms (154 pounds).

A "grossly inadequate" warning was telephoned just minutes before the blast, police said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but investigators said they suspect the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Restaurant owner Judith De-lbart said: "I suppose we ought to be relieved it wasn't in the middle of the day or there could have been people killed. Business is tough enough and this is an awful kick in the teeth. But we will open again."

Russia downplays Chernomyrdin claim on Kurils

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia scrambled Wednesday to contain fallout from remarks by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin on a territorial dispute with Japan that seemed to reverse Gorbachev-era policy and further poison Russo-Japanese ties.

President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman issued a statement claiming that domestic political events in Russia and Japan were "stimulating discussion and new approaches" to resolving the dispute over the Kuril Islands.

The statement did not directly address Mr. Chernomyrdin's assertion Tuesday that the dispute "does not exist," but said growing Russo-Japanese cooperation would help resolve "the most complex issues" in relations between the two countries.

Behind the scenes, Foreign Ministry officials in charge of policy on Japan said Mr. Chernomyrdin's remarks had come as a surprise to them and one suggested that perhaps the premier was "not aware" of the sensitivity of the issue.

"Our position remains that there is a dispute and that it must be resolved," a ministry official with responsibility for Japan told

AFP.

"How and when it is resolved is what we want to discuss," he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, speaking to Russian inhabitants on the contested island of Iturup, said that as far as the Russian government was concerned there was no dispute over the islands, referred to in Moscow as the Southern Kurils.

"It's our land, our people live there. Why should we give it to others?" Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin as saying.

"We don't need land that does not belong to us, but that which is ours we will never return," he said.

The land in question, three islands and a small island group in the Kuril chain known in Japan as the Northern Territories, were seized from Japan by Soviet troops near the end of World War II and are now populated by Russians.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry, in a statement Wednesday, described Mr. Chernomyrdin's remarks as "extremely regrettable" and an official said Tokyo was seeking "clarifications" from

the Russian authorities.

The late Soviet leader Nikolai Krushchev in 1956 floated a plan under which Japan would have regained sovereignty over two of the islands.

The scheme however was not taken up by the Japanese and for the decades that followed until Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985 official Soviet policy was not to recognise the existence of any dispute over the islands.

But while Russian Foreign Ministry officials expressed dismay Wednesday at Mr. Chernomyrdin's remarks, they have admitted privately in recent interviews that Moscow is not prepared to cede any meaningful ground on the dispute at present.

"We understand the views of the Japanese people and know that many see this as something like a Berlin problem," a ministry official in charge of Japan policy said.

"But mainly because of our own internal political situation we are just not ready to resolve this dispute yet," he added.

The official was referring to fierce opposition to any concessions on the islands from various nationalist groups and from with-

in the Russian Armed Forces that their hands on resolving the dispute.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's statements also threw into question whether Mr. Yeltsin would make a visit to Tokyo in mid-October as is being discussed, and Russian officials said they had still not received a formal invitation for the visit from Tokyo.

Mr. Yeltsin abruptly cancelled a planned visit to Japan last September four days before it was to have begun over the Kuril problem, and the Kremlin subsequently rebuffed efforts to reschedule the trip for last spring.

The dispute over the islands has prevented Russia and Japan from signing a peace treaty formally ending World War II and has made Tokyo reluctant to make any large-scale or long-term economic commitments to Russia.

Officials here have nonetheless voiced hope that the new government in Tokyo could prove more open to shifting the diplomatic focus away from the Kuril dispute than the Liberal Democratic Party which governed Japan for 38

Agassi on comeback trail

NEW HAVEN (Agencies) — Andre Agassi made quick work of Kelly Evernden 6-0, 6-3 Tuesday in the first round of the Volvo International, perhaps a little too quickly in the opinion of new coach Pancho Segura.

Segura would have preferred Agassi take advantage of the easy match to work on parts of his game like the serve and volley. Instead Agassi battered Evernden into submission from the baseline winning the first eight games in a match that lasted only 46 minutes plus a brief 10-minute rain delay.

"I wanted him to come in behind the ball more and serve and volley. Today he did that only once. He needs to do more of that," Segura said.

Agassi, who fell from the top 20 in the international rankings for the first time in five years because of a wrist injury in the spring, agreed it would have been a good match to work on his game if showers weren't forecast.

"Any time you have threatening weather like this you just want to get the match over with," Agassi said. "In a match like this you want to work on some things, do different things, but these early rounds the bottom line is you want to get by them."

Only five matches were completed Monday and Tuesday's play was delayed a half-hour by rain, although tournament officials hoped to get in a full schedule.

Five seeded players were beaten Tuesday: No. 9 Arnaud Boetsch, No. 12 Marc Goellner, No. 14 Richard Fromberg, No. 15 Jan Siemerink and No. 16 Carl-Uwe Steeb, aside from No. 10 Agassi, the only seeded player to advance were No. 11 Marc Rosset and No. 13 Jonas Svensson.

Segura, hired last month when Agassi's longtime coach, Nick Bollettieri, decided it was time for Agassi to move on, said he was getting his first serves in and winning the first-serve points. The lesson seemed to work Tuesday as Agassi got in 78 per cent of his first serves, winning 83 per cent of those points. By comparison, Evernden got in only 51 per cent of his first serves and won only 50 per cent of those.

Segura said he's also trying to teach Agassi that he must concentrate more on important points and important sets and learn to use himself.

"I want him to play a second seed, tempo. Andre is a one-imp kind of player — full speed. You just can't keep that consistently for a 3- or 4-hour match," he said. "I want to make sure that Andre Agassi, as long as he coaches him, he senses the use and plays the big points and big sets."

Agassi, who says his wrist is at strength, said Segura is proving him with a different view tennis.

Asked whether Agassi has the concentration to become No. 1, he hesitated.

"That is the question. I'm be-



Andre Agassi

gaining to sense at this stage of the game it's too hard to answer. Hopefully, the answer is yes."

Graf wins mediocre performance at Canadian Open

In Toronto, Steffi Graf's debut at the \$750,000 Canadian Open was a performance she would rather forget but it was still good enough for a 7-5 6-3 win over South African Rosalyn Nideffer Tuesday.

Fifth seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, sixth-seeded American Jennifer Capriati and unseeded Tracy Austin of the United States all won without losing a set in the 56-player event, which gives first-round byes to the top eight seeds.

Graf, the world number one, moved her career head-to-head record with the 60th-ranked Nideffer to 6-0 with her victory, but she was clearly upset with her standard of play.

"Yes, please," was her quick response to a question about whether she was the kind of match she would prefer to forget.

The 24-year-old German made 30 unforced errors in the 52-year-old Nideffer.

Austin, a two-time U.S. Open champion who has not played regularly on the circuit since the spring of 1983, performed more consistently than qualifier Andrea Keller of the United States and won their first-round match 7-5 6-2. She will meet 12th seed Nathalie Tauziat of France in the second round.

Becker struggles; Courier breezes through

In Indianapolis, Boris Becker was forced to go the distance in his second-round match at the \$1.04 million RCA Championships hardcourt tournament Tuesday while birthday boy Jim Courier was barely challenged.

The third-seeded Becker struggled with 157-ranked Andrew Sznajder of Canada for a 6-4 5-7 6-4 win. The second-seeded Courier, who turned 23 Tuesday, captured an easy 6-3 6-2 second-round victory over 78th-ranked Jaime Oncins of Brazil.

The top eight seeds received first-round byes.

The fourth-ranked Becker showed his lack of match play this summer. He double faulted 11 times and had 53 unforced errors in the two hour 41 minute match.

"I think I am at the stage where I need to play more matches," said Becker, who had played just two matches since his semifinal appearance at Wimbledon.

The second-ranked Courier never offered Oncins an opportunity to break serve in the one hour, 28 minute match.

"There was a lot of hard hitting and not a lot of finesse out there," said Courier. "I felt pretty good to get one under my belt."

Last week in Cincinnati, Courier went down to Australian Jason Stoltenberg in the second round and crumpled following that match.

Wilander wants U.S. Open wild card

In New Haven, Mats Wilander, who says he isn't coming back to big-time tennis, nonetheless hopes he can get a wild-card invitation into the U.S. Open next month.

Wilander said he is playing tennis for thrills these days and that no thrill would be bigger than returning to the U.S. Open, which he won in 1988 as one of his seven Grand Slam titles.

"I wouldn't put any more pressure on myself, but I think that I'm going to be more psyched up for the U.S. Open probably than any other match for me," said Wilander, who is still awaiting an answer. "I think it would be fun."

GORON BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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SAVING NINE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 2
♥ K J 10 8
♦ 2
♣ A K 10 4 2

EAST
♠ A K 10 8 6 3
♥ 7 5 3
♦ Void
♣ A J 9 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 4 2
♥ K 10 7 5
♦ 3 8
♣ 3 8

he bidding:
North East South West
1 1 2 2
2 1 2 2
Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

If you trust partner, you can come with some spectacular defenses.

Watch Swedish stars Mats Wilander, and Bjorn Faltenius, West, in action against Venezuela during the recent 9th World Bridge Olympiad.

After a competitive auction north-south did well to bid all the way up to five hearts. East-West can make 10 tricks at spades by finessing for the queen of spades and 10 of diamonds. Given the lead of

the six of spades, would you rather play or defend five hearts?

At the table, declarer routinely played low from dummy and East followed with the three. After winning the first trick with the six of spades, West shifted to a trump and when he regained the lead with a diamond, led another trump. Declarer could not afford to duck and set up a long club, but then had no entry to dummy to enjoy it. Or, if he preferred, he could maneuver one diamond on the long club, but could not ruff two diamonds. That was down one. Try it for yourself.

However, that does not mean you should have chosen to defend five hearts. If you elected to declare, you can get home by covering the six of spades at the first trick. East wins, but cannot ruff one of dummy's wild trumps.

Suppose East continues with a spade. Declarer ruffs low, crosses to the king of clubs, and leads a diamond to the king. Declarer wins the trump return in dummy's hand in his remaining low trump by ruffing a spade, and then has a high cross-ruff after cashing the remaining club winner, scoring all run. Trump tricks are two, clubs

1st Division Basketball Championship

Ahli defeat Orthodoxi 70-60

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli Wednesday beat all time rivals Al Orthodoxi 70-60, proving once again that they are the worthy titleholders of the 1992 First Division Basketball Championship which they recently won after a much-delayed controversial competition.

Although Al Ahli had overcome Al Orthodoxi by scoring big wins in four of five matches during the past six months, this time Al Orthodoxi seemed to have tightened some loopholes and were playing a more coherent game depending on teamwork, tight defence and securing rebounding.

Murad Barakat joined his teammates as player rather than coach as Al Orthodoxi took the lead 10-6 at the beginning of the match and Al Ahli then took the lead at 16-12. They continued to score by converting crucial foul shots to increase their lead to 20-14.

Meanwhile Bushnaq got his third personal foul, which somewhat hindered his activity.

Al Orthodoxi scored by Munaser Abul Tayyeb and Hilal Barakat to tie the game in the 12th minute.

Murad Barakat and Abu

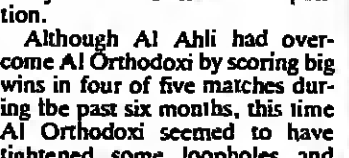
World Athletics Championships

America and Africa share the honours

Joyner-Kersey wins world heptathlon title

STUTTGART (AFP) — American and African runners shared the honours on a spell-binding fourth day at the World Athletics Championships Tuesday.

Michael Johnson and Jearl Miles won the men's and women's 400 metres for the United States while Mozambique's Maria Mutola crushed her women's 800m opponents and astonishing Kenyan Paul Ruto



Mozambique's Maria Mutola shoots for joy after winning the 800 metre final (AFP photo)

He ran the third-fastest 400m of all-time when he scorched home in 43.65sec.

Only Butch Reynolds, who ran a world record 43.29sec in Zurich exactly five years ago, and Olympic champion Quincy Watts (43.50 and 43.71) had run faster.

Reynolds followed Johnson home in 44.13 and Samson Kimungu on for the bronze in 44.54 although the race did not quite reach the heights of the Olympic final when the first six finished in under 45 seconds.

Hopes of an American clean sweep were dashed when the sole of Watts' shoe ripped off.

Reynolds, who has devoted his energies to fighting a drugs ban for most of the last three years, was satisfied to be back at the top in athletics.

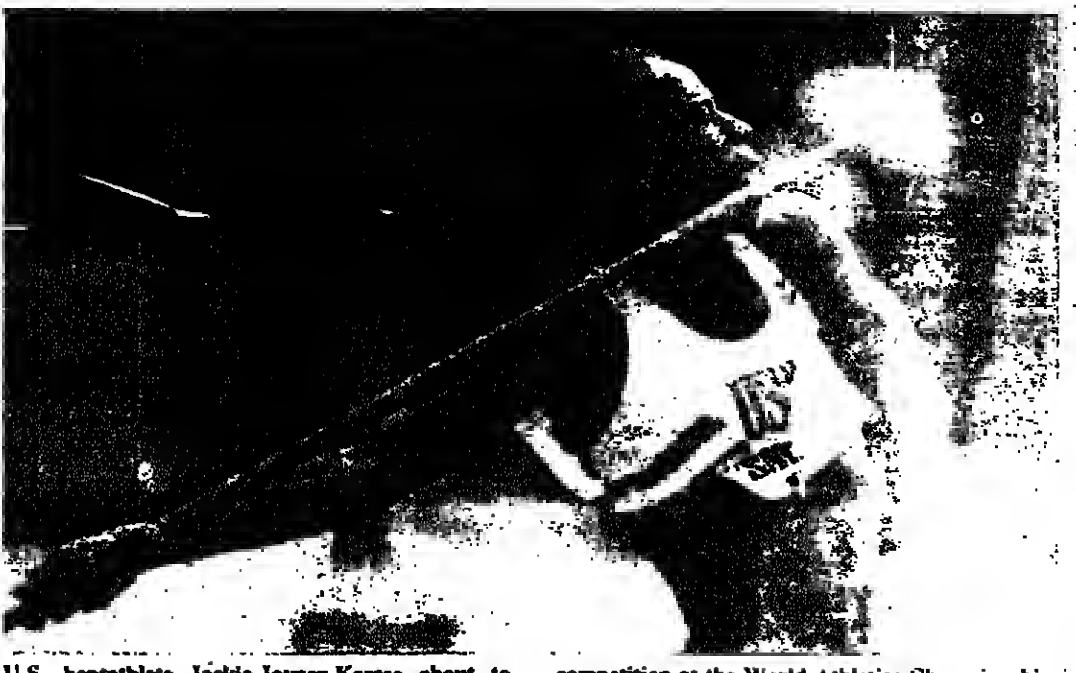
"I tried to run the best race I could and be consistent ... and I'm pleased with that. Michael's a great athlete and it's going to take a lot to beat him."

Mozambique's Maria Mutola became the first black African woman to win a world championship and she did so in devastating fashion.

However, hopes for a Mozambique double were dashed when her cousin Tina Paulino, the fastest qualifier, fell and also brought down defending champion Lilia Nurudinova of Russia.



American Michael Johnson jubilates after winning the 400 metre final beating Butch Reynolds (left) (AFP photo)



U.S. heptathlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey about to launch the javelin in the women's heptathlon competition at the World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart (AFP photo)

The 32-year-old Ruto underlined the notion that you only need to drive into the bush to whistle up a world-beating runner.

He had turned up for the Kenyan trials and beat Olympic

champion William Tanui and world champion Billy Konchellah but he only qualified for Tuesday's final as the fastest loser.

He was designated by the Kenyans to go out fast but Konchellah and Tanui responded too late. Ruto kept on and was surprised as anyone to find he had won.

"I kept asking, where is Konchellah, so I went for it," he said.

He only took up running five years ago and was clearly impressed by the Mercedes he collects as winner.

"It's a nice car," he said.

Miles became the first American world champion at 400 metres when she ran a personal best of 49.82 seconds. That equalled the world best for the season set by Gwen Torrence who is hoping to add the world title to her Olympic 200m title.

Natasha Kaiser-Brown made it an American double in 50.17 and

Sandie Richards of Jamaica snatched the bronze in 50.44.

The only other American to win an Olympic or world championship 400m was Valerie Brisco-Hooks at Los Angeles 1984 when the Soviets Young cur his right knee when he set the fastest qualifying time for Thursday's 400m hurdles final.

"Mentally and physically I was able to dictate what I wanted to do," the Olympic champion said after dipping under 48 seconds.

Wintrop Graham of Jamaica and Zambia's defending champion Samuel Mateere, who have both beaten Young this year, were second and third fastest.

The United States topped the medals table with six gold, three silver and two bronze. Germany, China and Kenya had each won two golds, while former sports superpower Russia were still waiting for their first after four silvers.

Rumman Hill Climb set for Friday Aug. 20

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

offering competitors and fans a spectacular view of forest areas near Jerash.

AMMAN — Competitors and fans are anxiously awaiting the season's most popular auto sports event — the Rumman Hill Climb — which will take place Friday Aug. 20.

The event, organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), has attracted 72 participants who will attempt to break the record of 2 minutes 02.42 seconds set in 1989 by His Majesty King Hussein in his Mercedes 190.

Participants have been grouped into four classes depending on engine capacity of their cars.

The hill climb, which was initiated by King Hussein back in 1956 is a favourite among the Kingdom's top drivers. The course is three kilometres long

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Ahlan Wa Sahlan

TODAY	Cinema Tel.: 577420 CONCORD Schwarzenegger in LAST ACTION HERO Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 FINAL ANALYSIS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30	Cinema Tel.: 699238 PLAZA Adel Imam in Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal play (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30	Cinema Tel.: 634144 PHILADELPHIA Martin Short & Danny Glover in Pure Luck Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 On Thursday and Friday special show for children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons	Nabil Al Mashhal Theatre Tel.: 675571 Coming soon: Fuad Shomaly Abu Fayek in the popular comedy: Al Ilmu Nuron	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625115 AHLAN THEATRE Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play: Arab Suite Confessions
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Crown Prince visits Zarqa camp, voices concern to ensure proper facilities

Prince Hassan urges coordinated approach to refugee services

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday providing educational and health services to citizens was one of Jordan's major concerns and targets within the framework of constructive cooperation between all those concerned.

During a visit to the city of Zarqa and the Zarqa refugee camp, Prince Hassan pointed to the grave political challenges Jordan is facing as a result of the waves of immigration which have swelled its population.

"The challenges faced by the people of Jordan" in general, and the inhabitants of the refugee camps in particular, were clear and conspicuous, and the residents of refugee camps managed to obtain the various services in spite of the clashes between the needs of the cities and the camps," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan called for convening a meeting at the level of the local council of Zarqa Governorate to discuss all issues pertaining to refugee camps, especially in fields of education and health, and to present the recommendations of such a meeting to the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees so as to address all problems facing refugees in these camps.

The Crown Prince also called for expanding services in the Zarqa region and for enlarging school building and expanding

health services in the area.

Specialists from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) were entrusted with studying the situation in the Zarqa refugee camp to study the prospect of expanding existing buildings and houses in the camp vertically, but the issue was rejected out of hand by the camp's residents and the city council for health reasons and the inavailability of adjacent lands to increase the area of the camp, Prince Hassan said.

Jordan, he said, has absorbed a lot of people who came to it through migration processes. He pointed to the economic discrepancies between Jordan and Israel in terms of income per capita.

He stressed that unorganised work in the development process will render all the efforts useless, and underlined that cooperation was the only way to achieve the best results in offering services to citizens.

The director of UNRWA's area and several officials in the Zarqa camp thanked Prince Hassan for his inspection visit and said that the number of students in the camp is on the rise, compared to the number of teachers. They said the number of students in each classroom will rise to 60 in the current scholastic year as a result of reducing the number of teachers "despite the fact that UNRWA already had around 80 vacancies for teachers."

They also complained that the

health clinics in the camp work still 2 p.m., compelling the sick to visit hospitals and clinics outside the camp in the latter parts of the day.

They called for developing health services in the camp, noting that some buildings could serve that purpose. They also demanded that an emergency clinic be set up at the camp, and reiterated calls for establishing vertical buildings in the camp in view of expanding families, stressing that a solution to this problem be reached with the Department of Palestinian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry and UNRWA. Usually, residents of refugee camps are not allowed to build a second floor for their houses.

They expressed their pride in the Hashemite leadership and in the stands of His Majesty King Hussein, and support for the King's decision to amend the Election Law with the aim of giving each citizen one vote.

Prince Hassan also visited health clinics in the camp and inspected their conditions and urged improvement in their work. He also inspected several areas in the camp and was briefed by residents on their conditions and needs.

Prince Hassan, who was accompanied by several officials, concluded his tour by visiting Khirbet Al Samra area, where he was familiarised with the situation there and issued directives on several issues.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visits a United Nations Relief and Works Agency facility in Zarqa (Petra photo)

Sudan denounces U.S. move placing it on 'terrorism' list

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The United States has told Sudan that it has been placed on the list of nations sponsoring "terrorism," a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, Dr. Gubti Mahdi, said U.S. Ambassador Donald Petterson informed the government of the decision Wednesday.

Dr. Mahdi said in a statement Sudan was innocent of "terrorist" activities and challenged the United States to prove the charge.

"We challenge the United States government to come up with a single case of a Sudanese national involved in a terrorist act," he said.

He said Washington had presented no evidence of the Sudanese government's alleged involvement in "terrorism."

Despite the U.S. decision, Sudan was still keen to cooperate with Washington, added Dr. Mahdi who is to become Khartoum's next ambassador to Iran.

Sudanese officials said that in practical terms the U.S. decision meant very little to Sudan because Washington had cut off financial aid and military credits to the government in Khartoum several years ago.

The United States is now providing only food aid, they said. The United States has not yet formally announced the decision to place Sudan on the list but officials in Washington said an announcement from Secretary of State Warren Christopher could be made on Wednesday.

Washington has been increasingly concerned about Sudan's ties to Iran and other groups and this is to be the basis of Mr. Christopher's decision, the officials said.

The ABC television network reported recently that U.S. intelligence believes top Sudanese government officials were involved in a plot to blow up the United Nations Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) offices and

two tunnels in New York.

A State Department report in April concluded that Sudan's increased support for Arab groups was directly related to the extension of national Islamic front influence over the government.

However, the report, "Patterns of Global Terrorism," said there was no evidence that Sudan conducted or sponsored specific "terrorist" attacks in 1992.

The report said Sudan has continued to strengthen ties to Iran and that a high-level Sudanese military delegation went to Tehran last summer to seek increased support for a campaign against insurgents in southern Sudan.

Dr. Mahdi said the notification, delivered by Ambassador Petterson, offered no evidence to substantiate the charges and mentioned no specific acts.

"We have challenged them to come up with a single piece of evidence that Sudan's national territory is being used for terrorism acts," Dr. Mahdi told the Associated Press. He said the government offered to provide the Americans evidence to the contrary.

In Washington, U.S. officials who leaked word of the move said Sudan was being added to the list that includes Libya, Iraq, Iran, Syria, North Korea and Cuba.

Inclusion on the list means the United States will not provide military equipment, either through sales or aid, and only humanitarian relief will be given. The United States also will forego against loans from international banks.

It is a largely symbolic step in Sudan's case, however. Relations between Washington and Khartoum have deteriorated so badly in the four years since Omar Hassan Al Bashir took power from a civilian government that basically the only U.S. aid shipments are humanitarian help for

starving southern Sudanese.

Dr. Mahdi said the government has been in constant contact with the Clinton administration over its impending decision.

"We have expressed our deep concern and attention over the issue and have reaffirmed to the U.S. administration that (terrorism) is against our beliefs and Islamic orientation," he said.

"We consider this a regrettable political decision, politically motivated and expressing a hostile attitude towards the Sudanese Islamic orientations."

ABC News reported Monday that two Sudanese diplomats at the country's mission to the United Nations were allegedly working as intelligence officers and had close ties with some of the 12 suspects arrested in the alleged bomb plot.

In New York, one of the diplomats, Sirajuddin Hamid Yousef, denied any involvement in the bombing and said such reports were a media campaign to tarnish his country's image.

A country must be engaged for a sustained period in supporting "terrorist" groups in order to be added to the U.S. watch list.

U.S. intelligence officials have suspected Sudan of harbouring groups such as the Abu Nidal organisation, Palestinians implicated in the bombing of Rome and Vienna airports in 1985 and the Muslim fundamentalist group Hizbollah.

The Sudanese mission in New York released a statement Tuesday denying any connection with "terrorist" activities.

"While recalling the clean record of the government of Sudan, with respect to terrorism in all its manifestations, this mission reiterates the declared position of Sudan which strongly condemns as criminal and unjustified all acts, methods and practices of terrorism especially those directed against civilians," it said.

Court rejects Demjanjuk retrial, but petition delays deportation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's supreme court moved a step closer to freeing John Demjanjuk on Wednesday by rejecting a new war crimes trial, but a further appeal kept him in jail for at least two more days.

A three-judge panel of the multi-tiered high court said there was "no alternative but to reject all appeals" and release Mr. Demjanjuk.

The court said in its 3-0 decision that it was unwilling to overturn a recommendation by Attorney General Yosef Harish against a new trial. Mr. Harish argued it might expose Mr. Demjanjuk to double jeopardy and that the available evidence would not be enough for conviction.

The petitioners, including Holocaust survivors and Nazi hunters, immediately asked Chief Justice Meir Shamgar to allow the full five-judge supreme court to weigh their demand for a new war crimes trial.

Mr. Shamgar ordered a hearing with just him on the bench for 9 a.m. Friday (0600 GMT) and stayed the deportation order until he decided whether to convene the five-judge panel or let Mr. Demjanjuk go.

Court rules would allow the five-judge panel, the highest level of the supreme court, 15 days to review the decision released Wednesday.

Last month the full, five-member court acquitted Mr. Demjanjuk and threw out a 1988 death sentence, saying there was reasonable doubt that he was "Ivan the Terrible," a guard at the Treblinka camp who operated gas chambers in which 850,000 people perished during World War II.

In that ruling the court recommended against a new trial, although it found that there was evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk

served as a guard at other camps.

Eight groups of Holocaust survivors, Nazi hunters and right-wing groups, appealed for a new trial based primarily on documents indicating he worked at Sobibor camp and served in a special unit organised to kill Jews.

Mr. Demjanjuk's attorney Yoram Sheftel objected to any further appeal, noting his client has been in prison since he was deported to Israel in 1986 and citing the expense incurred by Mr. Demjanjuk's family.

Mr. Sheftel later told reporters: "We are disappointed that in spite of all these rulings in Demjanjuk's favour he is still in prison. This reflects the difficulties of the system to carry out its own decisions."

Petitioners said they wanted to keep fighting.

"Every delay that forces him to sit in an Israeli jail for another day is positive if you consider that for every hour that the gas chambers were in operation at Sobibor hundreds of Jews were murdered," said Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Israel.

Despite the delay there appeared little chance for a new trial given the previous opposition of both the court and the prosecutor.

Justice Shlomo Levin said in his opinion Wednesday, "it would be very difficult to determine the defendant's activity in Sobibor. Not one of the survivors identified him there."

Judge Gabriel Bach dissented on several key issues although he voted with the other judges against a new trial. He said he did not consider as binding an earlier supreme court recommendation against a new trial and also wrote that there was enough public interest to justify seeking a

new extradition order from the United States.

Given the strong sentiments in Israel against releasing Mr. Demjanjuk, both prosecutors and judges seemed to be giving Holocaust survivors a chance to exhaust every legal avenue before allowing Mr. Demjanjuk to go free.

The ruling against a new trial for Mr. Demjanjuk brought a minute of stunned silence and then shouts of outrage in the packed courtroom.

"This court is corrupt. You bring shame on the Jewish people, shame, shame," cried Miki Sunshine.

Yisrael Yehzekeli, who served two years in jail for throwing acid in the face of Mr. Demjanjuk's attorney, tore his shirt in a sign of mourning and screamed in anger:

"I have little time left to live and I swore to myself I wouldn't let these murderers go. The court decided he was the murderer from Sobibor. How can they let him go free?"

Baruch Marzel, 35, of the right-wing Kach movement which was one of the petitioners, said Mr. Demjanjuk would be killed if the court set him free.

If Demjanjuk will be released, we will find a way to kill him in a short time," Mr. Marzel told reporters at the courthouse. Kach spokesman Tiran Pollak later said that "we will take matters into our own hands" if Mr. Demjanjuk was set free.

"Mr. Demjanjuk's relatives and supporters were also taken aback by the delay but said they doubted it would prevent Mr. Demjanjuk's eventual return to Ohio."

In Parma, Ohio, Mr. Demjanjuk's pastor, the Rev. John R. Nakonachny, said: "This is psychological torture."

Egyptian preacher may accept deportation

NEW YORK (R) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric who has been fighting a deportation order, may be willing to leave the United States voluntarily if he can go to Afghanistan, his lawyer said on Wednesday.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 55, has ties to many of those charged in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre and an alleged plot to blow up the United Nations and other New York landmarks.

The blind cleric, the spiritual leader for Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt, openly calls for the murder of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak from his self-imposed exile in New Jersey.

He has denied any involvement in either of the New York cases. He has been fighting a deportation order and suffered a setback on Monday when a federal judge denied his appeal against the action by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS).

But the cleric's lawyer, Barbara Nelson, told reporters outside the building that houses the INS that she had approached federal authorities about allowing the cleric to go to Afghanistan.

"In an exclusionary proceeding, the government chooses the country of deportation. We have discussed with the U.S. government whether he would be permitted to leave for Afghanistan and we're waiting for their answer," she said at the news conference.

The cleric has said that two of his sons were involved in the resistance fighting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan during the 1980s.

And Sheikh Abdul Rahman himself was reported to have helped the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) by recruiting guerrillas fighting the communists in Afghanistan, but both he and the CIA have denied it.

Immigration authorities say deportees are usually sent to the country from which they entered the United States.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman came from Sudan in 1990. But since he is an Egyptian citizen, authorities say he might be sent there, where he faces almost certain imprisonment.

The Egyptian government has asked the United States to extradite Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

Ms. Nelson said she is concerned for her client because of his poor health. He suffers from diabetes.

She said talks were underway and she was to see Sheikh Abdul Rahman later in the day. He is being held at a federal prison in Otisville, New York, 100 kilometres north of New York City.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman was ordered deported for allegedly lying on his immigration papers.

Ms. Nelson said that Sheikh Abdul Rahman would also be willing to go to two other countries, but she did not identify them.

The fundamentalist government of Sudan has said it would be willing to accept the cleric.

New Golan settlement started

(Continued from page 1)

"It's a camp for workers employed at Merom Golan," he said referring to a nearby village.

However, Labour Party Deputy Benny Temkin called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to "move off this new settlement as soon as possible before it affects the peace negotiations."

Avi Kelshtein, a spokesman for the Golan's 16,000 settlers, also denied the site was intended to become a new settlement, saying it would be a "work camp" to house labourers for local farms.

He said the settlers had police approval for the work.

Police last month stopped settlers from hauling five disguised prefabricated houses to start a new Golan settlement.

In the July attempt settlers used fruit crates to camouflage the prefabricated houses. Drivers carried fraudulent documents saying the trucks' cargo was fruit.

Witnesses said Wednesday the mobile homes have been hooked up to electricity and water. Settlers also fixed placards declaring their resistance to government policy of withdrawal from at least part of the Golan Heights in a peace agreement with Syria.

The Heights, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war, are home to some 18,000 Syrians, mostly Druze Arabs.

Right-wing Israelis have been waging a campaign against possible withdrawal from the Golan. Activities have peppered the countryside with huge posters that challenge Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's authority to make "concessions."

Queen asked to abide by Sunday law

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II has been asked to comply with a law banning Sunday trading after inspectors found that Buckingham Palace souvenir shops were selling soap — with the queen's face on it — silk ties and tea cups on that day. The breach was discovered after a man visiting the palace, which opened to the public on Aug. 1, filed a complaint. Civilian inspectors from the Westminster City Council, in whose jurisdiction the palace lies, then stopped by the shops, incognito, last Sunday. A 1950 British law, openly flaunted by thousands of merchants here, lists only some items such as postcards and travel guides that may be sold Sundays in tourist areas. "We expect her majesty to comply with her own law," Harvey Marshall, a Westminster Council representative said Tuesday. Buckingham Palace, for its part, quickly announced that come this Sunday the soap, ties and tea cups would be off the shelves. Up to 6,000 people daily visit the queen's residence, which was opened to the public to finance the restoration of Windsor Castle, damaged by a fire last November.

Collin Powell to write memoirs

NEW YORK (R) — General Colin Powell, the outgoing chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff, has a new career in the office: Author. Gen. Powell, who is to retire in late September, signed up with Random House to write memoirs of a 35-year-long army career that saw him become the first black to head the Joint Chiefs and become a major planner of the U.S.-led allied effort to push Iraq out of Kuwait.

A Random House spokeswoman declined to comment on how much Gen. Powell would be paid but said the company purchased the worldwide rights to his memoirs in bidding against other publishers. Publication of the 367-page work is due for 1995.

2 compensated by U.K. police after night raid

LONDON (R) — Two Britons received £6,000 (\$9,000) compensation each after they were arrested by mistake and strip-searched by police investigating an IRA bombing in London. Sarah Cohen and Sean Hampson also received a full apology from London's Metropolitan Police following the night raid on their North London home in March.

The pay-outs were revealed by the civil rights group Liberty. It is believed to be the first time compensation has been paid by police for false imprisonment under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. "It is entirely accepted that the experience must have been an unpleasant one for your client and I am authorised to offer a full apology for the distress or discomfort caused," the Metropolitan Police's solicitor said in a letter to Ms. Cohen's solicitor.

Dead baby mailed to Japanese temple

TOKYO (AFP) — The body of a dead baby girl was mailed to a temple in the western Japanese town of Nara along with incense, money and a letter asking that it be used for her funeral services; a newspaper said Wednesday. The Hiroshi Daily quoted police as saying the name and address of the sender, who had enclosed 20,000 yen (\$200), turned out to be false. No indication was given in the report as to the suspected cause of the baby's death and the name of the temple, where the body arrived Tuesday, was not released. Investigations were continuing, police said.

Michael Jackson to visit S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — American superstar Michael Jackson could perform in South Africa soon, agents in the United States and Johannesburg said. Jackson spokesman Lee Solters told Reuters in New York that dates had still to be set for the visit. "As far as we know, the dates have not been confirmed. He may well be appearing in South Africa, but we don't know when," he said. The Johannesburg Star quoted local agents as saying Jackson would perform in Johannesburg on Sept. 30 and biggest star to visit South Africa since a boycott backed by the United Nations was lifted in response to President F.W. de Klerk's apartheid reforms.

Bomb explodes in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (Lebanon Agencies) — A bomb exploded in Israeli-occupied South Lebanon Wednesday, but it caused no casualties, Israeli proxy militia reported.

It was set off by remote control after a patrol of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia drove through Jamus in Israel's self-declared "security zone" of South Lebanon. SLA radio reported.

It was the 10th attack since Israel on July 31 halted a week-long bombardment of South Lebanon.

The commander of Israel's northern region, General Yitzhak Mordechai, warned on Tuesday that Israel could launch another blitz on southern Lebanon if Israeli forces continue to come under attack.

In Stockholm, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Wednesday defended his country's bombardment of South Lebanon last month and accused Iran of sponsoring violence in the Middle East.

He said the Israeli government had no choice but to protect its civilian population against the Katyusha rocket attacks by the Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas in Lebanon.

"It was not a pleasure or a whim, but we had to stop it," Mr. Peres, in Sweden as part of a four-nation tour of Nordic countries, told a news conference in Stockholm.

About 150 people were killed and some 600 wounded in the Israeli attacks, intended to avenge the killing of seven Israeli soldiers in the 15-kilometre deep "security zone" it set up between northern Israel and southern Lebanon in 1985.

Swedish Foreign Minister Margareta af Ugglas, who met Mr. Peres earlier on Wednesday, described as "good and expanding" her country's ties with Israel, which had been frosty during the 1980s when Israel accused Sweden of meddling in its affairs and siding with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Peres, who will also visit Norway, Iceland and Finland, said Iran sponsored violence and instability in the region and that he believed Israel did not stand alone against Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East.

"I believe there is support in many Arab quarters for what Israel did. They think that Hizbollah should be stopped. Hamas should be stopped," said Mr. Peres.

"Tehran is producing a crazy, anti-Semitic fanaticism in the whole of the Middle East. They finance Hamas, they finance Hizbollah, they finance different groups introducing violence and instability. If the world does not support it, what are the suggestions for how to stop it," Mr. Peres added.

Lebanon, Syria settle differences over south

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese leaders have won over Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's objections to the recent Lebanese army's deployment in the south, official sources said Wednesday.

In return, however, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri pledged that any future strategic deals with the United States and Israel would first get approval from Damascus, the sources said, demanding strict anonymity.

The agreement, made at a Lebanese-Syrian summit Monday in Damascus, was further evidence that the army deployment was part of the ceasefire agreement brokered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to end Israel's bombardment of southern Lebanon.

Syria, the undisputed power broker in the country, opposed the army's move into areas used by Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas as a staging ground for attacks on Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Damascus has allowed the guerrillas a certain measure of freedom in attacking Israeli troops, both to keep Iran happy and bolster its own position at the peace talks.

The sources said Syria and Lebanon agreed to set up a permanent steering committee to direct their negotiations with Israel in the Middle East peace talks.

The committee is expected to include the foreign ministers and chief negotiators of the two countries, who will meet periodically in Beirut and Damascus.

Before the summit, Mr. Assad was irritated that no advance consultations had been made with his government on the army deployment.

The deployment followed Israel's week-long military blitz against Hizbollah and other groups in which nearly 150 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

The July 31 ceasefire was announced as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began his latest Middle East swing to reactivate the stalled Arab-Israeli talks. The 11th round is scheduled to begin at the end of August in Washington.

On Aug. 9, more than 500 government troops moved into the sectors of south Lebanon patrolled by United Nations peacekeeping troops since 1978.

Mr. Hariri stressed that the Lebanese army's main task was to maintain security and not to disarm Hizbollah and other guerrillas fighting to eject Israel from the 1,100-square-kilometre border strip.

The army contingent's size and light equipment makes it no match for the well-equipped guerrillas of Hizbollah or the pro-Syrian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Iran to submit ideas on Gulf island row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Wednesday it had fresh proposals for resolving its row with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three Gulf islands.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said he would relay the proposals through his Kuwaiti counterpart Ahmad Al Saadoun who had just arrived on an official visit to Iran.

"I will put forth our proposals (about the dispute) to him in our talks," Mr. Nateq-Nouri told Tehran Radio.

He described the dispute, which has strained Iran's relations with the Gulf neighbours for more than a year, as "very minor."

He said the dispute, which has strained Iran's relations with the Gulf neighbours for more than a year, as "very minor."

The radio quoted Mr. Saadoun as saying he hoped a meeting of foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh next month would help solve the dispute.

Foreign ministers of the GCC — grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — backed the UAE's total sovereignty over the islands when the GCC was founded.

Iran said the islands, close to major Gulf shipping lanes, belonged to it until Britain, as a regional colonial power, hived them off. A third of world oil passes through the Gulf.

Iran and the UAE said after Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati visited Abu Dhabi in May that they wanted to resume direct talks on the dispute.

The row destroyed much of the goodwill built up between Iran and the Gulf Arabs when Tehran condemned Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and remained neutral during the invasion.

Kuwait's appreciation of the Iranian stance during the invasion and said Kuwait wanted to develop its relations with Iran in all fields, Tehran Radio said.